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THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

Cholera cover-up
Paul Valley on the disease Ethiopian officials dare not name

Sporting Thirdies
Geoffrey Green, doyen of *Fives* sports writers, turns the clock back fifty years

Au revoir
Michael Quinn, the Ritz's first English head chef tells Saturday why he is leaving

Tall order
Non-league Telford take on Everton in the fifth round of the FA Cup

Portfolio

Over £60,000 can be won in The Times Portfolio competition tomorrow the £20,000 weekly prize is tripled because no-one won it last week or the week before. And there is £2,000 in tomorrow's daily competition, making a total of £62,000.

There was no winner yesterday, so today's prize is increased to £4,000. Portfolio list, page 21; how to play, information service, back page.

New crisis in Central America

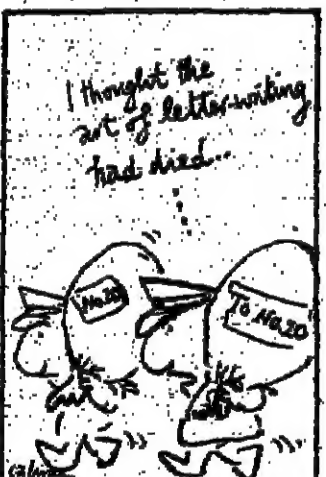
Prospects for peace in Central America dimmed dramatically when Washington's principal regional allies - Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras - withdrew from a meeting of the Contadora group. The crisis blew up over a dispute between Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Pupils first

Headteachers have been told by new associations that the interests of the pupils come first in the present industrial action over pay.

Concorde record

A British Airways Concorde touched down in Sydney after trimming seven hours from the previous fastest time for the 10,600-mile flight from London.



Oil price up

Spot market prices of North Sea oil rose sharply after the Government's decision to continue to subsidize the British National Oil Corporation's trading losses.

Match off

Wales have postponed tomorrow's rugby union match against England at Cardiff because of continuing bad weather.

SPECIAL REPORT

Who needs an office when you can keep in touch in the car? A six-page Special Report looks at the vast improvement in mobile communications over the past three years and how it could change our lifestyles.

Leader page 17
Letters: On the economy, from Prof Lord Kaldor, and Mr Terry Ward; Warnock, from Sir Anthony Almond
Leading articles: Dollar, Embassy, The holocaust, Features, pages 14-16
Big Sister and Bernard Levin; Merin the immortal; Philip Howard on the Anglo-French centenary
Spectrum: has the Getty been hoaxed? Friday Page: heartache for art's sake
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Major-General Sir Guy Salisbury-Jones, Mr Rokusek Tanska

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Ministers' honesty called into doubt by Kinnock

Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock continued their battle of wits yesterday. In the Commons Mr Kinnock said ministers had conspired to deceive the House about the sinking of the General Belgrano.

Asked if she endorsed the deception, Mrs Thatcher replied that there had been no deception; the Government had a duty not to reveal intelligence which could help an enemy.

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock last night impugned the honesty of ministers who, he said, had conspired to deceive the House of Commons over the events surrounding the sinking of the General Belgrano on May 2, 1982.

Returning to the attack in the Commons, the Labour leader yesterday repeated the central question which the Prime Minister had missed on Tuesday. He said: "A vetted jury unanimously concluded that Mr Posing had not broken the law by exposing the attempt of ministers to mislead Parliament and the public deliberately."

"Did the Prime Minister know about the proposed deception of Parliament? If she did, did she endorse it? If she did not, will she condemn it strongly?"

Mrs Thatcher replied: "There has been no attempt whatsoever to mislead the House. No attempt whatsoever. I have made it absolutely clear that the Government has a duty not to reveal intelligence which could be of assistance to the enemy or imperil the safety of our forces."

But Mr Kinnock told political reporters at Westminster last night that Mr Roy Amiot, prosecuting counsel for the Posing trial, had told the court that the papers leaked by Mr Posing - the information

which had been withheld from a Commons select committee and from Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP - had not damaged national security. He told the court: "This case involves an alleged breach of confidentiality."

Mr Kinnock said that the Prime Minister's attempt to defend her Government's actions on ground of security did not stand up to scrutiny and was "rather lame."

He then added: "The matters raised by the select committee were not in that category of breaching national security and the efforts which ministers undertook to ensure that matters were denied to the House of Commons were not in keeping with the general expectation about the honesty of ministers."

The two ministers at the heart of the controversy, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, and Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, will open and close a special debate on the Belgrano-Posing affair on Monday.

Meanwhile the Prime Minister and Mr Kinnock continued their correspondence about Mrs Thatcher's role in the Posing prosecution - described by the Opposition leader as "the latest exchange of Valentine notes".

Mr Kinnock specifically

accepted Mrs Thatcher's statement that she had not intervened in the Law Officers' August 17 decision to prosecute Mr Posing.

But he wrote of "profound disbelief" and "incredulity" about the process, leading up to that decision, with particular "scepticism" about the suggestion that three days had passed before Mr Heseltine had been informed of Mr Posing's August 10 admission. He then posed in specific questions about the detail of ministerial communication.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons that the letter contained no trace of apology and told Mr Kinnock in a further letter that she had taken the initiative to restore the relationship which should exist between a Prime Minister and leader of the Opposition. I am sorry that you have not been able to respond."

Mr Kinnock later told a Parliamentary Labour Party meeting that he thought her letter "pathetic". He said in response to Number 10 that he regretted Mrs Thatcher's failure to answer his detailed questions.

The Labour leader also said during the evening that Mrs Thatcher had been "a bit

Continued on back page, col 3

Ponting barred from returning to defence ministry job

By Rodney Cawton and Stewart Tandler

Mr Clive Ponting was told yesterday that he would not be allowed to resume his employment in the Ministry of Defence.

It appears possible, however, that he could continue as a civil servant in another department if he wished to. Although a Whitehall source said that no decision had been taken, there appears to be no intention to dismiss him from the Civil Service for his admitted breach of trust in sending confidential Ministry of Defence documents to Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Llandfawr.

It was made clear to Mr Ponting that while he remained in the Civil Service he would be

subject to rules of conduct and discipline. That would almost certainly make it impossible for him to publish articles or a book, cleared by the Civil Service authorities.

Mr Ponting could be confronted with immediate difficulties over that rule because *The Observer* is planning to publish his article on Sunday. The paper confirmed last night its intention to go ahead with its plan.

Mr Ponting spent about 40 minutes yesterday discussing his future with Mr Richard Hasle-Smith, Deputy Under Secretary for Civilian Management in the Ministry of Defence.

The Ministry said after the meeting that Mr Ponting's future in the Civil Service had been discussed. While his future was being considered, he would remain in the Ministry of Defence employee, but he had been told that his security clearance had been withdrawn. That meant he would not be able to resume his duties in the ministry.

After the meeting Mr Ponting said that there had been only "preliminary discussions", and there would be further meetings. Asked whether he would remain in the Ministry of Defence he said: "That is in the air."

Russians seek cut of 33,000 troops

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Moscow yesterday put forward a "new initiative" in disarmament by proposing joint troop withdrawals with the United States from central Europe. The proposal, at the Vienna Talks on Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions, was simultaneously announced in Moscow envisaging an initial joint cut of 33,000 troops, to be followed by more radical withdrawals in later stages.

The talks have dragged on for 12 years. Diplomats said the Soviet proposal was designed to show that Moscow was in favour of disarmament at all East-West forums, including Vienna, Stockholm, and the coming Geneva talks on space weapons and nuclear missiles.

But diplomats said the Soviet proposal, which suggests a reduction of Soviet forces by 20,000 and of American forces

by 13,000, contained nothing new. Initial cuts would be carried out "within one year of agreement on the issue", according to Mr Vladimir Lomeiko, the Foreign Ministry spokesman. They would be followed by withdrawals amounting eventually to 900,000 men on each side.

Mr Lomeiko said the West always accused the Warsaw Pact at the Vienna talks of under-estimating Soviet bloc troop levels. There was a need to "cut through this fruitless discussion about who has more than whom."

He said the proposal included elements previously demanded by the Western powers, a reference to demands for effective verification.

Star Wars focus, page 6
David Watt, page 16

Queen will attend war service

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are to attend a service at Westminster Abbey on May 8 to mark the 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War (our Political Correspondent writes).

All ambassadors and high commissioners in London will be invited, and the Government is arranging for war widows and veterans to visit the Far East.

The Prime Minister said in a parliamentary written reply yesterday that the intention was to hold a national commemoration "which will both honour the dead and recall the reconstruction that has been achieved in 40 years of peace with freedom and justice."

The Government in January ruled out an official government-sponsored celebration, but quickly changed its mind.



Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips being greeted by the Dean of Westminster, Dr Edward Carpenter, at yesterday's unveiling of a memorial to Lord Mountbatten of Burma and Lady Mountbatten at Westminster Abbey (Photograph: John Voss).

Closure rights reserved TUC talks produce pit peace formula

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

A formula of words to end the 11-month-old miners' strike has emerged during secret talks between the TUC and the National Coal Board, and leaders of the two pit unions will today be asked to endorse it.

The text thrashed out at a series of meetings between Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, and Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the coal board, is understood to be a redefinition of the traditional postures of the two sides which could "save face" in a peace deal.

But the document does make clear that management has a right to manage the industry in line with its responsibilities under the Nationalization Act, 1946, which means that the board reserves the right to close pits on the ground that they are uneconomic.

That is the issue that sparked off the coalfield conflict 49 weeks ago, and the TUC is expecting a tough time selling the peace formula to the 26-man executive of the National Union of Mineworkers, which has consistently refused to concede the point.

Leaders of the pit deputies' union, NACODS, will also attend today's "summit" at Congress House in London. Their general secretary, Mr Peter McNestry, was last night "very hopeful" that direct negotiations might start between the mineworkers and the coal board.

It also emerged yesterday that Yorkshire NUM leaders have called off the mass picketing in their coalfield not just because they have been ordered to do so by the High Court, but also to

give the peace process a fair wind.

Mr Sid Vincent, secretary of the Lancashire miners and a key figure in the political calculations about the prospect of the NUM executive doing a deal, said yesterday: "The whole of the national executive committee wants a settlement, including Arthur Scargill. But it has to be an honourable settlement. They will not sell their souls at this stage."

The delicacy of the situation was underlined by Mr Willis last night when he said that the TUC had been "testing out the ground" for a settlement and had gone over all the words that have already been bandied around in previous, abortive talks. "It is obviously still going to be extremely difficult," he added.

The optimum timetable for a return to work in the pits now appears to be as follows: if the NUM executive accepts the draft peace formula, bilateral negotiations could take place over the weekend, and the outcome could be put to a national delegate conference in midweek. If the men from the coalfields accept a settlement, then the strikers could return to work on February 23.

In talks with the pit deputies two nights ago, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said that the NUM was no longer required to give a written undertaking to accept uneconomic pit closures in advance of talks.

Another 147 strikers returned to work yesterday taking to just under 2,000 the total number of "new faces" back at the pits this week.

Scargill wins French support on Paris trip

Paris - Leaders of the Communist-led French trade union, the CGT, pledged continuing support for the miners strike yesterday after meeting Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, and Mr Norman Willis, General Secretary of the TUC, on a one-day visit to Paris (Diane Geddes writes).

M Henri Krasucki, the general secretary, hailed the miners' action as the "greatest strike in the history of the trade union movement."

"We won't allow them to be starved into submission," he added.

told a press conference. The CGT had handed over the equivalent of 20 million Francs (nearly £2 million) in cash and in kind to the families of striking miners, he said.

Mr Scargill described the CGT help as "invaluable", and said that the NUM dispute could not have been sustained without it. Insisting on the need for a negotiated settlement, he said that the British miners had "come too far and suffered too much to go back."

The strike represented "the first step in the de-industrialization of major industries," he added.

\$7m painting challenged as a forgery

Controversy is raging in the art world over a suggestion that the Getty Museum's latest purchase, valued about \$7 million is a forgery (Geraldine Norman, Our Sale Room Correspondent writes).

Mr Alain Tarica, a French art dealer, aged 41, has challenged the authenticity of the painting the Getty calls "The Annunciation" by Dieric Bouts and dates to the 1450s. Several scholars in Europe are also puzzled by the picture.

The painting was discovered by Mr Derek Johns, a London dealer, who also discovered the Dieric Bouts "Resurrection", sold at Sotheby's in 1980 for £1.87 million. Mr Tarica suggests that this is also a forgery. It now belongs to the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena.

Spectrum, page 14

Surgeon flies to Soviet leader

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Dr Evgeny Chazov, the chief Politburo surgeon and heart specialist, cut short a visit to the United States yesterday and returned here several days early, amid growing fears for the health of President Chernenko.

There are unconfirmed but reliable reports that Mr Chernenko, aged 73, suffered a heart attack on Monday night, the day before he was due to meet Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister.

Mr Grigoriy Romanov, a Politburo member and leadership candidate, yesterday praised Mr Chernenko during an election speech - the lead item on television news. Mention of the President's name was greeted with prolonged applause. Television gave no account last night of the regular weekly Politburo meeting, and did not say it had taken place. Last week, the media said Mr Chernenko had addressed the regular Thursday session.

Dr Chazov is Russia's leading cardiologist. One of his functions is to sign medical bulletins and authorize the post mortem examination after the death of a Soviet leader.

He attended a peace conference in Los Angeles this week - taken as a sign that no crisis was imminent here - before lecturing in Cleveland, Ohio.

President Chernenko is believed to be in the Politburo clinic at Kuntsevo, near Moscow, not far from Dr Chazov's cardiology institute. Soviet officials emphasized that government was proceeding normally, and pointed to yesterday's arms initiative at the Vienna talks as proof.

Diplomats said, however, that there were signs that some political activities were being suspended. A trip by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, to Italy at the end of the month appears to be in doubt.

The suggestion that Mr Chernenko, who suffers from emphysema, might step down as party leader, but remain in the ceremonial post of President, is gaining ground. The principal candidates for the leadership are Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, aged 53, and Mr Viktor Grishin, aged 70.

Emphysema is a lung condition in which the common symptoms are an almost constant shortness of breath, wheezy breathing and, in severe cases, a bloated appearance and bluish complexion (Thomson Prentice writes).

It involves the over-distension of air cells in the lungs, leading to their rupture and collapse. As the condition progresses, neighbouring air cells attempt to cope but come under greater strain, as does the heart. Paroxysms of coughing invariably follow any exertion.

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Doctors get guidelines on pill for under-16s

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Doctors were told yesterday they must not provide advice or treatment to under-age girls about pregnancy or contraception without their parents' permission, except in an emergency or with a court's permission.

They must, however, still keep confidential the fact that a girl has sought their advice in the first place.

The General Medical Council's advice is in line with last December's Court of Appeal ruling that girls under 16 must not be given the pill without their parents' consent, except in an emergency.

But the council underlined that its new advice was only "interim" pending an appeal to the House of Lords by the Department of Health and Social Security. Some doctors at the meeting made it clear they were deeply unhappy at the Court of Appeal. Dr Lotte Newman, from northwest London said: "Personally I shall be prepared to consider as an emergency any young woman who I cannot persuade should contact her parents."

The council's standards committee said it felt it could not provide a definition of what an "emergency" might be. "It should be a matter for each individual doctor to decide in his own clinical judgement and in the circumstances of each case, whether a state of emergency exists upon which he could, if necessary, justify his action."

BR abandons own Channel tunnel plans

British rail has dropped its plan for a channel tunnel, but still hopes that a cross-Channel link will enable trains to get from Waterloo station, in London, to Paris in less than three hours.

Mr David Williams, British Rail director of international marketing and head of the tunnel project, said yesterday that the state-owned concern would back any private enterprise groups promoting a cross-Channel link including rail facilities.

He was speaking at a debate at the Institution of Civil Engineers in London on the benefits of a fixed Channel link. British Rail had proposed building a single tunnel, but that has been dropped.

Law may force councils to give work out for contract

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Councils may be forced to privatize work such as cooking school meals and emptying dustbins under a new law proposed by the Government yesterday. It reflects the frustration of ministers at the slow rate of privatization and the refusal of some councils to make their staffs compete for work with private firms.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, explained at a press conference in London that he wanted the new law to start in just over two years, when councils would have to put much of their work out to competitive tender.

"Here is a way where councils can get better value for money for their ratepayers," Mr Jenkin said. He made it clear that bargaining between councils and contractors would be expected to cover minimum wages and conditions of work.

It would not be acceptable for councils to oblige contractors to accept wage rates agreed between councils and unions in order to win contracts. Mr Jenkin said that compulsory

tendering would cover catering, the cleaning of buildings, maintenance of grounds and vehicles and the emptying of dustbins.

A few councils already have their own cooking and dustbins emptied by outside firms on a voluntary basis. But ministers believe that there is scope for much more such privatization.

Mr Jenkin said that as a last resort ministers should be allowed to close the direct labour organizations of councils that refused to open work to private contractors, in order to secure value for money. Councils, unions and companies have until the end of April to comment on his plans.

Mr Rodney Bickersstaff, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said that ministers wanted to use the law to bludgeon councils into privatizing services because only 41 of the 456 councils in England and Wales had so far done so.

'Chaotic' state of housing benefit

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Three hundred thousand people entitled to social security assistance towards housing costs may well not be receiving it, the Public Accounts Committee said yesterday.

Also, the Government must ensure that the chaos which accompanied the introduction of housing benefit is not repeated in any reform of the system, it added.

The committee says it is concerned that, according to Department of Health and Social Security estimates, only 200,000 people are receiving a housing benefit supplement out of an estimated half million entitled to it.

Overpayments, which can continue for between seven and 14 months if claimants' circumstances change, need to be checked and the appeal system needs improving, the committee adds.

It says it is "dismayed" that in spite of the long gestation



Captive audience: Sixth formers listening intently to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, at the Central Hall Westminster. (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Untrained drivers 'moving oil'

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

"Cowboy" tanker drivers carrying oil to power stations are being allowed to flout the law, the Transport and General Workers' Union claims.

Many of the vehicles, which are being used for fuel substituted for coal, are "totally unroadworthy" and driven by untrained drivers, the union says.

"We have heard of drivers not even in possession of heavy goods vehicle licences," Mr Brian Farr, secretary of the union's east London oil trades branch, said.

Mr Farr said the allegations were not based on hearsay. Several of his members spent days observing on a miners' picket line and they saw vehicles with bald tyres, some where the fabric hung in shreds from the wheel. Others had different number plates on front and back with no road tax or operators' licence showing, Mr Farr said.

"One of the most blatant incidents was pointed out to a police officer, stringently upholding the law, forcefully picking a perfectly peaceful picket, but our efforts to interest him in the condition of a tanker, breaking every traffic law we could think of, was totally ignored and the vehicle allowed to proceed."

Mr Farr said his branch supported the miners in their fight against pit closures, and

wanted the public to know what was being "condoned" by the authorities in pursuit of their defeat.

The ruling Labour group on Chesterfield Council in Derbyshire has ordered the drivers of municipal buses to risk their jobs in the miners' cause (our Chesterfield Correspondent writes).

Bus crews have been told to maintain their policy of not crossing picket lines although more than 73 per cent of miners in north Derbyshire have abandoned the strike.

At a mass meeting, the drivers reaffirmed their policy although the National Coal Board was asking the council's transport department to fulfil its contract by taking working miners into the pit yards.

Miners' officials in South Wales last night stepped back from the brink of risking jobs at a flooded pit. They agreed to allow pumping at Oakdale colliery, Gwent.

One coalface, with £1 million of machinery, is feared lost. A second, where normally four million gallons of water are cleared every 24 hours, has been submerged.

The South Wales executive of the National Union of Mineworkers has told Dr Kim Howells, their research officer, that he must no longer communicate with the press or give interviews.

Chemical plant is cleared by inquiry

By Ronald Faux

There is nothing unusual about the general state of human, animal or plant health in the Bonnybridge-Denny area of Central Scotland, according to the independent review ordered by the Government and published yesterday.

The review was prompted by fears in the area about the local effects of waste from the Re-Chem plant at Bonnybridge, which has since shut for economic reasons.

The review team was led by Professor John Lenihan, former head of the department of chemical physics at Glasgow University. The report said that congenital anomalies were, if anything, lower in the area than for Scotland as a whole. Six cases of congenital eye defects were recorded in the Forth Valley health board area between 1981 and 1984, half of them in the study area. This above-average number could be chance fluctuation, the report said, but the matter merited further investigation to establish the possible causes. The apparently high increase in cancer cases between 1975 and 1981 was not higher than the average Scottish rate in that period.

Turning to animal health and the condition of cattle that had grazed in the area of the Re-Chem plant, the review found that although they were, not given, certain information, the

problems of Mr Andrew Graham's herd arose primarily from nutritional imbalances. A full veterinary investigation of the history and circumstances at Tambowie Farm, Milngavie, and West Bankhead, Denny, was recommended.

Analytical results available to the review committee for PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and PCDDs (polychlorinated dibenzodioxins) (furans) in Mr Graham's cattle and in soil from West Bankhead Farm and elsewhere in the area, did not indicate unusually high levels.

"There is no evidence available to us relating the ill health of Mr Graham's cattle to emissions from the Re-Chem plant... no single pattern of disease occurs among the farms in the Bonnybridge-Denny area and the diseases that are present are commonplace. Moreover, there is no single cause or group of causes, common to the diseases, on the farms in question," the review stated.

Professor Lenihan told the press conference in Edinburgh that expert opinion set the danger levels for dioxins at 1,000 parts per billion. Levels found in the study area were in the tens of parts per billion.

Mr Malcolm Lee, managing director of Re-Chem, issued a statement yesterday to say the company was "naturally very pleased" that its confidence in the safety of operations had been upheld.

Zuckerman condemns Dresden bombing

The bombing of Dresden 40 years ago was condemned last night by Lord Zuckerman, former chief scientific adviser to the Ministry of Defence.

He said that Bomber Command had stuck to a conventional military idea, when they should have carried out "Fanta-ster" or precision raids.

He said that pin-point bombing had become possible with a revolutionary advance in 1940 in the radar field.

Lord Zuckerman was one of three speakers at a meeting to commemorate the scientific achievement of Sir John Randall, inventor of the Cavity Magnetron.

Lord Zuckerman said the Germans had not learned to counter the impact on radar of the Cavity Magnetron by the end of the war.

Direction to jury in home trial

Mr Justice Mann said yesterday that he would direct a jury at Maidstone Crown Court to return "not guilty" verdicts on charges faced by the proprietors of an old people's home, who are accused of taking advantage of women residents' ill-health for financial gain.

Maxwell Tillings, aged 46, and his wife Sylvia Tillings, aged 39, of Cabin Court Lodge, Westgate, Kent, deny theft of £1,100 from Mrs North Kirby.

The judge directed that they be found not guilty of attempting to steal £15,000 belonging to Mrs Kirby, once of High Street, Sleaford, West Sussex, said he was acquitted of attempting to steal property, the residue of the estate of the personal representatives of Mrs Kirby.

He said they should be found not guilty of administering a destructive or obnoxious thing to Mrs Kirby with intent to injure or annoy her, and that Mr Tillings be acquitted of administering medicinal products to her contrary to law. Mrs Tillings is still accused of giving Valium and Normison, to her contrary to law.

The judge directed that both be found not guilty of attempting to evade liability by deception, and Mr Tillings be acquitted of an alternative charge of furnishing false information.

Mrs Tillings is still accused of furnishing false information. The trial was adjourned until today.

Kinnock still pressing Thatcher over Ponting's prosecution

The following is the text of a letter written by Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday to the Prime Minister.

Thank you for your lengthy letter which benefited by being rather more informative and less melodramatic than your previous correspondence.

There remain a number of questions arising from the issues and from your letter which need to be answered in greater detail and I enclose them in a separate sheet.

In addition, there are features of this matter which generate scepticism. The suggestion, for instance, that nearly three days could pass between the time that an admission was made by a senior Civil Servant on an issue of great importance and the time that the Secretary of State for his department - especially the Defence Ministry - was informed is, for obvious reasons very difficult to believe.

In addition, you will be familiar with the consideration put by Mr Sam Silkin QC, former Attorney General, in his letter to *The Times* on 26 September last that:

"The Law Officers must take instructions from nobody; they are free to consult colleagues, particularly those with a departmental concern and, as Sir John Simon rightly said, there are times when they would be fools not to do so. In a case such as the Ponting case it is hard to believe that there are no aspects of the public interest upon which consultation with colleagues could have assisted the Law Officers in reaching their eventual and independent decision."

That has been and is the widely understood position of Law Officers and Departmental Ministers in cases of this nature. The idea that there was no consultation of the kind to which Mr Silkin refers has been greeted by many - including myself - with incredulity.

Further, because of your reputation for detailed acquaintance with departmental affairs, I share the widespread surprise that you played no active part in matters between the discovery of the leak on 26 July and the authorization of the prosecution of Mr Ponting on 17 August.

These and other considerations combine to produce profound disbelief. I am prepared to accept what you say in your letter as an accurate account of the joint decision of the Law Officers on 17 August. As far as

the wider questions of ministerial conduct are concerned, I have again to say that my further judgement must depend upon full disclosures on these matters and upon full answers to the questions which I append.

Yours sincerely
Neil Kinnock

Questions arising from the Prime Minister's letter of 13 February.

1. When Mr Heseltine was first made aware on 26 July of the fact that Ministry of Defence documents had been leaked to Mr Dailly, did he express any opinion or issue any instruction as to whether or not the individual responsible, if and when identified, should be prosecuted?

2. Were you made aware, by Mr Heseltine or anyone else, of the fact that documents had been leaked to Mr Dailly, and that an investigation had been ordered, before you received a telex on Monday 13 August? If so, when?

3. If you were made aware of the fact of the leak or the investigation, or both, before 13 August, did you express any view on the matter and, if so, what was your view?

4. Could you confirm the implication in your letter that you were first made aware of Mr Ponting's admission in the telex you received on 13 August?

5. Will you confirm the implication of your letter that you received no other communications on the matter between the telex on 13 August and the second telex on 17 August, and that you had no contact with ministerial colleagues or with officials on the matter between those two events?

6. Why were you informed, on Monday 13 August, of the outcome of the investigation and the referral to the DPP?

7. Is it standard practice that you be kept informed of the outcome of any investigation involving the Official Secrets Act, or involving a member of the Civil Service?

8. Had you issued a specific instruction to that effect, or requested that you be kept informed in this case?

9. When your Private Office was notified on Monday 13 August, by Mr Heseltine's Private Office of the outcome of the investigation, did they request that they be immediately notified of the outcome of the Law Officers' and the DPP's deliberations?

10. On receipt of the telex on 13 August, did you ask to be immediately informed of the law

Officers' decision, as you were on 17 August?

11. Can you confirm the implication of your letter that the first time Mr Heseltine knew of the outcome of the investigation and Mr Ponting's admission was on the afternoon of Monday 13 August, and that that was the first time he knew of Sir Ewen Broadbent's communications with the DPP and the Solicitor General?

12. At the meeting between Sir Ewen Broadbent and the Secretary of State on Monday 13 August, was Mr Heseltine told that Mr Ponting had already submitted a letter of resignation? Did he express a view on whether that resignation should be accepted? Did he, while recognizing that the responsibility for authorizing a prosecution lies with the Law Officers, express a view as to whether or not a prosecution should be brought?

13. When was Mr John Stanley first made aware of the leaking of the documents to Mr Dailly?

14. When was Mr Stanley first told of the establishment of an investigation?

15. Can you confirm the implication of your letter that the first time Mr Stanley was made aware of Mr Ponting's admission was on 15 August?

16. Can you confirm that neither you, nor Mr Heseltine nor Mr Stanley discussed this whole affair, with each other or with other ministerial colleagues, or with officials, or at any time before Monday 13 August?

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, in her reply wrote:

Dear Mr Kinnock, I have read your letter of 14 February. You apply the terms "scepticism", "incredulity" and "profound disbelief" to the statements in my letter. Those phrases and your further sixteen questions make clear that you continue to doubt my assurances that Ministers were not involved in the decision to prosecute Mr Ponting. So, despite what you said in the House today, your letter shows that you are maintaining the position you took in the House on Tuesday.

I have given you a full and meticulous account of the matters relevant to the point you raised. I have taken the initiative to restore the relationship which should exist between a Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition. I am sorry that you have not been able to respond.

Yours sincerely,
Margaret Thatcher.

Steel cites Brittan on 'indefensible' Act

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The 1978 verdict of Mr Leon Brittan, the present Home Secretary, that the Official Secrets Act under which Mr Clive Ponting was unsuccessfully prosecuted was "indefensible", was recalled yesterday by Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, in urging the repeal of section 2 of the Act and the introduction of a freedom of information Bill. Why was Mr Brittan now standing on his

head, Mr Steel asked, and using a discredited Act to protect the Government from parliamentary scrutiny.

Mr Brittan had argued then that the unlimited discretion given to ministers by the Act was "barely consistent with any proper concept of the rule of law". Those arguments still stood.

Mr Steel, who was speaking at an all-party rally at Westminster,

organized by the Campaign for Freedom of Information, said open and democratic government rested on consent which could be freely given only if information was available.

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, said the Act should be repealed in the next session of Parliament, and in the interim the Attorney-General should decide not to use section 2.

HOW THE TRUTH EMERGED ABOUT THE BELGRANO



What actually happened (all times GMT)

1. Government's version, 1982*
2. Government's correction

April 30

Rules of Engagement changed to allow attack on Argentine carrier 25 de Mayo outside 12-mile exclusion zone

1. Not mentioned
2. (Revealed in Ponting leak) confirmed by PM's letter to George Foulkes MP, Sept 19, 1984

HMS Conqueror detects oiler south of Falklands and follows

1. Not mentioned
2. Revealed in PM's letter to Denzil Davies, shadow defence spokesman, April 4, 1984

May 1

1pm. Conqueror sights Belgrano

1. Not mentioned
2. (Revealed by Conqueror's captain in 1983); confirmed in PM's letter to Denzil Davies

May 2

8am. Belgrano reverses course to head west

1. Not mentioned
2. (Revealed by Clive Ponting), confirmed by PM in letter to George Foulkes, Sept 19, 1984, though junior defence minister Peter Binker gave new course, Nov 29, 1982.

9.15am. Admiral Woodward asks for change in rules of engagement to allow attack on Belgrano

1. Not mentioned
2. (Revealed by Woodward, Oct 82) confirmed by PM's letter to George Foulkes, Sept 19, 1984

11am to noon. Rules changed to allow track on all Argentine ships outside territorial waters

1. Not mentioned
2. (Revealed by Clive Ponting) confirmed by PM's letter to George Foulkes, Sept 19, 1984

12.30. Radio transmission to task force changing rules

1. Not mentioned
2. Confirmed in PM's letter to Denzil Davies, April 4, 1984

2pm. Conqueror gets message, but garbling delays decoding

1. Not mentioned
2. (Revealed by Clive Ponting) confirmed by PM's letter to George Foulkes, Sept 19, 1984

2pm. Conqueror reports position of Belgrano and course (due west) and at 2.40pm Navy headquarters at Northwood reports senior officers and McD told of course. Ministers not informed

1. No details given
2. PM's letter to George Foulkes, Sept 19, 1984

4pm. Conqueror receives general order to attack Argentine; acknowledges and says about to attack

1. No details given
2. PM's letter to George Foulkes, Sept 19, 1984

7pm. Attacks Belgrano, which is sailing west at 11 knots, 368 lives lost

1. Attack contained in official version. No time given
2. True course stated Nov 29, 1982

May 7

Britain announces the rule change under which attack was made

1. Same

* White Paper on Falklands War (Cmd 8758), and Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse's Official Dispatch, London Gazette, December 14, 1982.

Chances critics say Government missed

Opposition party allegations

Mrs Margaret Thatcher failed to give a full account to the House of Commons of the Belgrano sinking, centred on the period from December 1982 to April 1984. Ministers first learned in November 1982, that the official version of the Belgrano's sinking given on May 4 by Sir John Nott was incorrect.

The conflict between the truth and the initial statement became apparent as the Government drew up the White Paper on the Falklands. That White Paper reiterated the earlier statement that the Belgrano had been detected on May 2.

Between the time when she discovered that the earlier version was incorrect and her letter in April 1984 giving details about the true date on which the Belgrano was sighted, Mrs Thatcher made the following statements in the Commons which, her critics allege, could have been used to put the records straight.

December 13 1982
"As my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence told the House on May 13 - (Vol. 23 c 1030) - the General Belgrano and a group of British warships could have been within striking distance of each other in a matter of some five to six hours, converging from a distance of some 200 nautical miles."

In response to a question by Mr Tam Dalyell, the task force and the Belgrano were on a diversion course.

December 16 1982

"The General Belgrano and her escorts had made many changes of course during May 2. It is not possible to give meaningful mean courses for them or for the British warships. The precise courses being steered at any particular moment were incidental to the indications we possessed of the threat to the task force."

In reply to Mr Dalyell questioning whether the task force and the Belgrano were converging, in fact the Belgrano made only one minor correction of course after having turned away from the task force.

December 20, 1982
"The official despatch of the commander-in-chief of the task force has been published. I have nothing further to add to it and to answers to previous questions by the Hon. Member."

In reply to a Dalyell question on how long the Belgrano had been detected. The official despatch of the commander-in-chief had been modified to suggest that the Belgrano was detected on May 2. It was actually detected on May 1.

February 21, 1984
"The full facts were given in several replies in the House and I believe in an adjournment debate, in an article by my Right Hon. Friend, the former Foreign Secretary and one by the former ambassador to the United States. All the facts are there, they support the Government's case."

In response to a question calling for a public inquiry into the Belgrano sinking, critics point out that at that stage the Government was still sticking to its official version of 1982 and had not revealed any of the facts that subsequently emerged.

Ministry says case sent to DPP automatically

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that the reference of the case of Mr Clive Ponting to the Director of Public Prosecutions had been entirely automatic.

The ministry said it was automatic where there was a prima facie breach of the Official Secrets Act for the matter to be referred to the DPP. That had been the practice for years, and there was no question of its being "a

crackdown rule" introduced by the present government.

That would appear to lend support to government assertions that the Ponting case was raised with the DPP on August 13 last year, by Sir Ewen Broadbent, then Second Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, without reference to ministers.

The papers on the case were passed to the DPP on August 16.

What Falklands White Paper said

On 2 May HMS Conqueror detected the Argentine cruiser, General Belgrano, accompanied by two destroyers, sailing near to the total exclusion zone. Other Argentine ships were also thought to be probing our defences to the north of the zone. The Belgrano, and her escorts armed with Exocet missiles, posed a clear threat to

the ships of the task force. She was therefore attacked and sunk by torpedoes. Thereafter major Argentine warships remained within 12 miles of the Argentine coast and took no further part in the Campaign. Argentine submarines continued to pose a serious threat but no task force ships were successfully attacked.

Court criticizes example to young fans as Botham is fined for having drugs

From Peter Davenport, Scunthorpe

Jan Botham, aged 29, the England and Somerset cricketer, pleaded guilty yesterday to possessing cannabis. He was fined £100.

After a 20-minute hearing before magistrates in Scunthorpe, Humberside, the chairman of the bench, Mr Gerald Fish, a retired headmaster, told him: "By your sporting prowess you have earned a very large following of admirers: many thousands of whom are young, impressionable people and you may wish to reflect whether, in view of this offence, you have set them the right example."

The court was told by Mr Leslie Bell, for the prosecution, that Det Sgt Malcolm Fowler, of the Humberside Drugs Squad, and other officers went to Botham's house in Blow Row, Epworth, near Scunthorpe, on New Year's eve.

During a search of the house they found, in a bedroom drawer, a bank bag containing a vegetable matter. It was shown to Botham by Det Sgt Fowler who asked: "What's this?" Mr Bell said that Botham replied: "It is cannabis."

The cricketer, a former England captain, was taken to Scunthorpe police station where he was questioned further.

Det Sgt Fowler: Could I just ask you about the substance I found in your bedroom drawer? Do you know what it is?

Botham: Well, I think it is cannabis.

Yes, it appears to be cannabis.

Yes, I think it is grass. It has probably got tobacco mixed with it. I have had a couple of smokes of it but that was some time ago. It has been in my drawer for a long time.

How long?

About two or three years at least. I got it in London when the West Indians came over. A man just came up to me and said: "Try this, so I took it. I had

forgotten all about it, to be honest.

"Was it for your own use?"

Yes, I would not get very far dealing with that little bit.

Mr Bell said that on examination by forensic scientists, the substance was found to contain 2.19 grammes of cannabis. It was valued at £4.

Botham, married with two children, was said by Mr Bell to be "financially sound".

Mr Alan Herd, for Botham, said that the cricketer had readily admitted possessing a small amount of the drug. The police arrival at his home had taken the family by surprise, he said, but that there had been no hindrance or objection to the search.

"He made no attempt at any form of cover up, he was

scrupulously honest with the police."

Mr Herd said that Botham had been given the drug after a cricket match in London and that it had been "careless and forgetful" of him to leave it in his home for two or three years.

He added: "He had forgotten it was there, which is not surprising. Because of his job he is away from home much more than he is there."

"He is a world-famous sportsman and celebrity with a wife and two young children whose lives have been considerably disrupted since the events of New Year's Eve."

Both Mr Botham and his wife Kathy were originally arrested but only he was charged.

Mr Herd said: "Mr Botham and his wife have been more than punished for this indiscretion. News of their arrest was spread over every newspaper and television in the country. No charge was brought against Mrs Botham, who is an ordinary housewife and mother, who has suffered from this matter. This would not have happened to her had her name not been Mrs Botham."

"I strenuously ask you to take the view punishment enough, one way or another, has been meted out. Botham sat in the dock throughout the hearing."

Apart from pleading guilty and asking for 24 hours in which to pay the fine he said nothing. His wife sat at the rear of the court with her father. Magistrates also ordered Botham to pay £25 prosecution costs.

As he left the court, past a group of demonstrators calling for the legislation of cannabis, one of them shouted "Hit em for six, Ian".

Botham declined to answer questions from journalists but told one inquirer: "I am looking forward to the Australians coming."



Ian Botham arriving to face drug charges, and his wife leaving after the court verdict



Eros with Mr Ken Livingstone yesterday (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Eros back in London after repair

London received a special Valentine yesterday when the statue of Eros, the god of love, was unveiled in its temporary new home at the Royal Festival Hall, after six months of restoration.

Eros will remain on the South Bank until it is returned to Piccadilly Circus in March of next year as part of a redevelopment of the area.

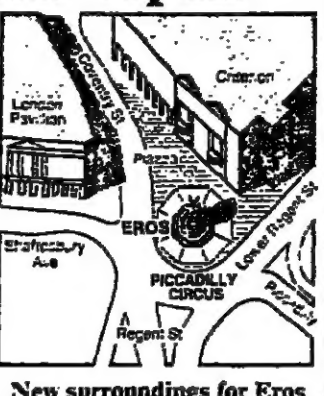
The statue's treatment for corrosion and fractures started last August and was carried out by Henshaw and Sons, Edinburgh, at a cost of more than £200,000.

Welcoming Eros back to London, Mr Ken Livingstone, leader of the GLC, said: "He is as much a part of London as the cockney sparrow and Big Ben."

The toll of pollution, protesters and hippies prompted the repair work.

Designed by Sir Alfred Gilbert to symbolize the works of the social reformer, Lord Shaftesbury, Eros was originally unveiled in 1893.

Londoners took the statue to heart and it was removed for protection during both world wars.



New surroundings for Eros

Solicitors gaining £40m in interest

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

Solicitors in England and Wales earned a total of £40 million in interest on clients' money in their safekeeping in 1983, the National Consumer Council estimates in a discussion paper published today. Although individual sums of money involved are usually small, the total amount of interest earned is sizeable, it says.

The council calls on solicitors to pay out more of the interest earned on clients' money, rather than keeping it.

It would be impracticable for solicitors to pay clients all interest earned, because most sums are held for only a few days and it would not make economic sense to open separate bank accounts and work out what interest is due to each client on a daily basis, it says.

But interest of £10 or more earned on sums of at least £500 should automatically be paid to clients, the council recommends.

It also suggests that money held by a solicitor as "stakeholder", usually when it is in transition from one person to another, should no longer be excluded from the rules of interest. When £10 or more, the solicitor should pay it to the eventual recipient.

Now, few clients consider whether interest is being earned on money their solicitor is holding for them, such as a deposit on a house purchase, let alone if it is possible to claim it, the council says.

Mr Michael Montague, the council's said: "We are not for one moment suggesting that solicitors are doing anything improper by keeping this interest: as the rules stand, they are allowed to." The proposals were intended to stimulate public discussion, he added.

It has been noted that the National Consumer Council, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AA. £4 in p and p.

Boy spent three days with dead mother

A boy aged six spent three nights locked in a flat with his dead mother.

Adrian Rayson tried in vain to revive Mrs Kathy Rayson, aged 28, and dragged her from her bed to the lounge where he laid her beside a sofa.

He switched on an electric fire and turned on the television set in hope that she might wake up, and covered her with an overcoat and other bedclothes to try to keep her warm.

But Mrs Rayson, who was five ft tall and weighed six stone, had died from bronchial pneumonia.

The boy could not get out of the flat at Longford Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, because he found the door handle too stiff.

His effort to break down the door with a chair failed, and neighbours did not hear the noise.

The boy and the body were found by Mrs Rayson's father, Mr Harvey Cairns, aged 60, who visited the flat on Tuesday.

A post-mortem examination showed that Mrs Rayson died last Saturday of bronchial pneumonia.

Yesterday would have been her twenty-ninth birthday.

Mrs Rayson was the victim of an assault five years ago. She was paralysed down one side of her face.

B-Cal launches off-peak fares

Cheaper European air fares, which effectively offer discounts to off-peak travellers to Holland and West Germany, were launched yesterday by British Caledonian.

The airline says its "Time Flyer" fares will be available for flights from May ranging from £64 return to Amsterdam and £84 to Frankfurt, with no advance booking restrictions.

The only condition is that travellers must stay abroad at least one night.

Bill aims to halt decline of dog tracks

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government is backing moves to sweep away restrictions on greyhound racing in an attempt to halt the declining fortunes of Britain's second largest spectator sport.

Under a Bill expected to become law within a few months, the statutory limitation on the number of days that meetings can be held at greyhound tracks will be abolished, as will the restriction on the number of races that can be staged at any one meeting. Promoters will be allowed to organize meetings on as many days of the year as they wish, apart from Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday.

At present tracks cannot hold more than 130 meetings a year, with a maximum of 10 races per meeting.

Some of the leading tracks have been sold and the closure last year of the White City

Warning of higher mortgages

By Richard Thomson

The Halifax, Britain's largest building society, said yesterday that a rise in mortgage rates may not be far off.

Mr Richard Hornby, the chairman said: "If mortgage demand picks up and there is no reduction in base rates, we could have to raise our interest rates." But he hoped they would not go above 15 per cent.

A spokesman for the Abbey National, the second largest society, threw doubt on an increase. He said: "We are at the margin on mortgage lending. If we raise mortgage rates now we are afraid it may choke off demand."

The Building Societies Association reported on Tuesday that mortgage demand was unusually slack and that societies had ample funds to meet demand.

The proposals to end restrictions are contained in the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Bill, a private member's measure, which has been introduced into the Lords by Lord Newall, a Conservative.

Neighbour 'was lured' to death

Graham Backhouse, a farmer, was the "evil man" behind the car bomb attempt to kill his wife and the shotgun murder of his neighbour, Mr James Black, for the prosecution, told Bristol Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Black claimed that Mr Backhouse lured his neighbour, Mr Colin Bedale-Taylor, to his farmhouse and shot him.

He then gashed himself with a knife to support his claim that he shot in self-defence after being attacked by his neighbour.

Money was the "motive", Mr Black suggested. Mr Backhouse owed £70,000.

Was it purely coincidence, he asked, that in March Mrs Backhouse's insurance position was doubled so that she was worth £100,000?

Mr Lionel Read, QC, for the defence, said Mr Backhouse, on unchallenged evidence, loved his wife and children. He was not bankrupt.

Mr Backhouse, aged 44, of Widden Hill Farm, Horton, near Bristol, denies attempting to murder his wife, Mrs Maggie Backhouse, aged 37, on April 9 last year, and pleaded not guilty to murdering Mr Bedale-Taylor.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Detectives 'led to arms by IRA men'

By Colin Hughes

Unsuspecting Provisional IRA terrorists led detectives to buried caches of ammunition and explosive which could have been used to mount "a prolonged and deadly campaign of violence," the Central Criminal Court was told.

The anti-terrorist squad detectives were trailing Mr Paul Kavanagh, an alleged member of an IRA unit which carried out four London bombings in the autumn of 1981, and another alleged unit member, Mr Nantaisio Vella.

Mr Roy Amiot, for the prosecution said that the pair, with two more men, drove to Saley, Forest, Northamptonshire.

Mr Kavanagh faces two charges of possessing arms and explosives with intent to endanger life.

He also faces eight other charges, jointly with Mr Thomas Quigley, related to four bombings and placing one other bomb in London.

Three charges are of murder, one of attempted murder. Both men deny all counts. The trial was adjourned until today.

Armed men in £1/2m gems raid

Armed raiders yesterday escaped with jewellery worth about £500,000 from English Art Works, the Cartier workshop in New Bond Street, London after handcuffing a member of the staff to a hanging rail inside a cupboard.

Robbery squad officers hunting the two raiders, who were armed with a hand gun, crowbar and baseball bat, and wearing party masks, said the raid had been well planned. The member of staff arrived for work shortly after 7am and was confronted by the men, who ordered him to open the safe.

Oak preserving has been pumping compressed air into the ground around the ancient Major Oak in Sherwood Forest, reputed hide-out of Robin Hood. The machine breaks up the soil without damaging the surface and allows nutrients and water to get to the roots.

Brewery closes The Hereford Brewery, Britain's smallest brewery, which was opened two years ago on an industrial estate at Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, has closed because of financial difficulties.

Legacy boosts RSPCA prosecutions

By Michael Horsnell

A bolder approach by the RSPCA to prosecutions for cruelty to animals is expected after the record 21,733,600 it has been left by a wealthy widow who lived in the Channel Islands.

The ruling council of the charity, which spends more than £4million a year on prosecutions, but does not pursue cases whose outcome is felt to be uncertain, will shortly discuss what to do with the legacy.

Mrs Asthildreda Hadow, aged 79, specified that the money should be spent on prosecutions. Last year the society prosecuted more than

1,900 cases, of which it lost only 31.

A spokesman said: "We prosecute only as a last resort, preferring to steer people away from cruelty by advice and guidance, and on occasions when we are faced with uncertain cases involving a lot of expense we tend to go ahead with prosecutions. But this money should enhance the capabilities of our inspectorate department which is responsible for prosecutions, even if we decide to withdraw for other purposes a proportion of the £4million we already spend to make way for the £1,733,600 we have been left."

The 1984 RSPCA accounts will not be published until May but it is expected that the

society will report an operating surplus approaching £1million. Income for the year was about £9.4million and outgoings about £8.6million.

About £6.4million, or 68 per cent, of its income was from legacies, £1.8million from fees from its homes and hospitals, £800,000 from investments, and the rest from subscriptions and donations.

Expenditure was about £5million on salaries and employment costs, and about £3.6million on transport, telephones and postage. Prosecution costs involved both of the main areas of expense.

The operating surplus reflects an improvement over the early 1980s when there were substantial deficits.

Is snoring dangerous?

The very Russian Vishnevskaya.

Taking the pain out of parking.

Which university?

Should the state keep a child from its family?

These and other pressing matters are explored in the March issue of Good Housekeeping.

It would be unfortunate to miss it.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

The Essential Magazine



PARLIAMENT FEBRUARY 14 1985

Labour's 'little quibbles'

Deposits to go up

Commentary

Row goes on: Kinnock 'right off beam' - PM

PONTING CASE

The Government would continue to discharge its duty of preventing the release of information which might imperil the safety of the armed forces. Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, declared in the Commons during another round of extremely noisy exchanges about the Ponting case and the sinking of the Belgrano during the Falklands hostilities.

While Mr Kinnock, the leader of the Opposition, indicated he was prepared to accept Mrs Thatcher's assurance that she was not involved in the decision to prosecute Mr Ponting and had said so in a letter to her, Mrs Thatcher complained that the letter contained no trace of an apology or withdrawal of anything. She explained that information which had lost its operational significance had been published in the Official Report of the House of Commons and had not been challenged. But other information will have operational and intelligence significance especially as the Argentine had not ceased permanent hostilities against Britain, Mr Kinnock said, she said, was right off beam.

Opening the exchanges, Mr Archy Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, Lib) asked: Bearing in mind that the House in Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act which has come to a head in the Ponting case were originally drawn to the attention of the House by Lord Franks in 1972, and that the present Attorney General (Sir Michael Havers) and Home Secretary (Leon Brittan) both in 1978 condemned the provisions of Section 2, will she convene a meeting with the express and urgent purpose of planning the early repeal of Section 2 to create greater freedom of information and only reserve explicitly stated subjects which must be the subject of confidentiality?

Mrs Thatcher: There was a Franks report in 1972, consisting of three privy councillors and other MPs. A White Paper was issued six

years later in 1978. In 1979 when the Conservative Government which I led came into power we introduced a Bill to implement the Franks recommendations which did not find favour with Parliament. We have not tackled the matter since.

Many people want Section 2 changed. There is precious little agreement on how to change it. Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch, Con) would not agree that disclosure of intelligence information is bound inevitably to be useful to potential enemies.

Will she assure the House that if there is any conflict between disclosure to this House and

on that point I am prepared to accept her assurance.

I have said this in my letter of reply and I have also included several other questions relating to the decision to prosecute Clive Ponting.

Now want her to answer the question which she avoided answering on Tuesday. A vetted jury unanimously concluded that Mr Ponting had not broken the law by exposing the attempt of ministers to mislead Parliament and the public deliberately.

Did the Prime Minister know about the proposed deception of Parliament? If she did, did she endorse it? If she did not, will she condemn it strongly?

Mrs Thatcher: I have received his letter. It contained no trace of apology or withdrawal of anything which he said, no trace whatsoever. (loud Conservative interruptions)

Indeed, in many respects he repeated her own words. He quoted from a letter written by the former Labour Attorney General (Mr Sam Silkin). What Mr Silkin said right at the beginning of his letter, as reported to *The Times* on September 26, it was this:

"The Prime Minister emphatically asserted that the law officers did not seek the view of, or consult with, any other minister, nor was the view of any other minister conveyed to them before they took their decision to prosecute Mr Ponting? As a statement of fact, I do not question that assertion."

Do I understand him to be making a similar statement?

Mr Kinnock: I am more than content to have the whole of Mr Sam Silkin's letter quoted but unfortunately Mrs Thatcher with her selective taste still has not answered the question.

As for my repetition of assertions, that is still because the primary points have not been answered in anything Mrs Thatcher has said to me.

In the matter of apologies, yes, apologies are in order - apologies from her for the utterly disreputable

action of her ministers in seeking to mislead and let down Parliament as documents leaked by Mr Ponting conclusively demonstrated.

Mrs Thatcher: I notice Mr Kinnock does not think the grade to agree... (His words were drowned by noise from both sides of the House).

There has been no attempt whatsoever to mislead the House. (loud Labour interruptions). No attempt whatsoever. I have made it absolutely clear that the Government has a duty not to reveal intelligence which could be of assistance to the enemy or imperil the safety of our forces.

I notice that our enemies are very careful not to let us know how much and what they know of our movements. They are not being questioned in this way. We have a duty not to disclose that. (Labour protests and shouts of "Two years after?")

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill): Order, order. This is a very serious matter of very great interest to the House. I would ask the House to give a full account of the facts which was published in the Official Report and not challenged.

Other information still as great operational and intelligence significance especially in a situation where the Argentines have still not ceased permanent hostilities against this country.

Mr Kinnock: Wherever national security or the safety of our troops or sailors are concerned or imperilled, then this House should be at one. (Conservative interruptions) And where the question of the integrity of ministers is concerned, this House should also be at one.

The knowledge of movements of the battleship Belgrano is now encyclopaedic and detailed and has been for many of us for some time. There are now no longer any details that could conceivably be relevant to our troops. These documents and the matters being considered by Ministers have been released.

Is Mrs Thatcher saying that the documents which were disclosed by Mr Ponting were forgeries or that he

committed perjury or that the jury was wrong?

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Kinnock is going right off beam. I made it perfectly clear... (Laughter). Mr Kinnock clearly knows nothing about intelligence matters. Where information has lost its operational significance, we have given a full account of the facts. If any change can be made against me, it is that I have given too much information.

I want to say this about intelligence information - if an enemy or anyone engaged in hostilities with us has got intelligence information and knows not only what it was but the time we got it, he would be well on the way to knowing where we got it from and would take appropriate action. These methods are still in existence.

To give intelligence now, when Argentina has still not ceased hostilities would imperil more our

armed forces. It is no earthly good... (loud interruptions) His actions reveal he is not at one.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham Selly Oak, Con) would Mrs Thatcher agree that to the majority of people in this country the action taken over the Belgrano, whether it was sailing away at 30 knots or sailing in circles, was the right action to take?

Naively is shown by Mr Kinnock

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said the sum of £500 was a compromise: it was as high as Labour were ready to accept and as low as the Government was ready to accept. He was prepared, therefore, to accept it in a reluctant way.

Although the Government originally took the view that the threshold ought to be higher than 5 per cent, in a spirit of compromise, it had agreed to Labour's proposal that the £500 deposit should be accompanied by the 5 per cent threshold.

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said a candidate at a parliamentary election had considerable advantages and it was appropriate that the community should expect someone putting himself forward had a serious prospect of obtaining a reasonable degree of support.

The problem of people claiming to represent a party they did not actually belong to as well as the Conservative Party because recently in Glasgow two candidates had claimed to be the official Labour candidate for the council, and both lost.

The problem could be solved by a register of party members but that would lead to consequences which were not thought to be an acceptable price.

The Government would have been more than content to take powers to enable the future deposit to be increased by affirmative order instead of a full Bill, but there was not a consensus for it.

Mr Kaufman opposed the whole case because, he said, the Opposition took the view that no deposit should be required.

Mr Eric Forth (Worcestershire Mid.) said he would like to see the £1,000 figure remain. He was not convinced about the requirement for signatures. Those MPs who received petitions from the public knew that it was all too easy to gather a large number of signatures for almost anything one cared to dream up.

Mr Douglas Hogg (Cranham, Con) said he would like to see a power in the House to increase the deposit without recourse to primary legislation.

Mr Peter Brunsell (Leicester East, Con) said he welcomed the Home Secretary's concession, but wished the deposit could have been reduced. No one should be deterred from standing.

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Mrs Thatcher: I notice Mr Kinnock does not think the grade to agree... (His words were drowned by noise from both sides of the House).

There has been no attempt whatsoever to mislead the House. (loud Labour interruptions). No attempt whatsoever. I have made it absolutely clear that the Government has a duty not to reveal intelligence which could be of assistance to the enemy or imperil the safety of our forces.

I notice that our enemies are very careful not to let us know how much and what they know of our movements. They are not being questioned in this way. We have a duty not to disclose that. (Labour protests and shouts of "Two years after?")

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill): Order, order. This is a very serious matter of very great interest to the House. I would ask the House to give a full account of the facts which was published in the Official Report and not challenged.

Other information still as great operational and intelligence significance especially in a situation where the Argentines have still not ceased permanent hostilities against this country.

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I want to say this about intelligence information - if an enemy or anyone engaged in hostilities with us has got intelligence information and knows not only what it was but the time we got it, he would be well on the way to knowing where we got it from and would take appropriate action. These methods are still in existence.

To give intelligence now, when Argentina has still not ceased hostilities would imperil more our

armed forces. It is no earthly good... (loud interruptions) His actions reveal he is not at one.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham Selly Oak, Con) would Mrs Thatcher agree that to the majority of people in this country the action taken over the Belgrano, whether it was sailing away at 30 knots or sailing in circles, was the right action to take?

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Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said the sum of £500 was a compromise: it was as high as Labour were ready to accept and as low as the Government was ready to accept. He was prepared, therefore, to accept it in a reluctant way.

Although the Government originally took the view that the threshold ought to be higher than 5 per cent, in a spirit of compromise, it had agreed to Labour's proposal that the £500 deposit should be accompanied by the 5 per cent threshold.

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said a candidate at a parliamentary election had considerable advantages and it was appropriate that the community should expect someone putting himself forward had a serious prospect of obtaining a reasonable degree of support.

The problem of people claiming to represent a party they did not actually belong to as well as the Conservative Party because recently in Glasgow two candidates had claimed to be the official Labour candidate for the council, and both lost.

The problem could be solved by a register of party members but that would lead to consequences which were not thought to be an acceptable price.

The Government would have been more than content to take powers to enable the future deposit to be increased by affirmative order instead of a full Bill, but there was not a consensus for it.

Mr Kaufman opposed the whole case because, he said, the Opposition took the view that no deposit should be required.

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Prosecutor lynch-pin of new service

LEGAL AFFAIRS

An amendment designed to enhance the status and position of the crown prosecutors office by making his dismissal possible only after a joint decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Attorney General, was rejected in the House of Lords by 103 to 74 - Government majority 29, during the report stage of the Prosecution of Offences Bill.

Lord Elwyn-Jones, a former Labour Chancellor, said the question of dismissal would arise only rarely, but it was important to mark the significance of the post by involving the Attorney General in the decision.

The Prosecuting Solicitors' Society was anxious to support the proposal because of the enhanced status it would give to the Crown Prosecutor.

Lord Macclesfield (Lab) said as well as enhancing the status of the office in the eyes of the public and of chief justices, the amendment would also emphasize the independence of the position.

Lord Campbell of Alloway (C) said he supported the spirit of the amendment. It would be a safeguard to entrench the independence of the crown prosecutor. He was in a special position. His dismissal would be a matter of great importance and it was right it should be subject to a joint decision.

Lord Elton, Minister of State, Home Office, said the Bill already established the crown prosecutors as the lynch-pin of the new service and their calibre would be vital to it.

There was no need for the position to be enhanced.

Of all the administrative decisions which would have to be taken why should the dismissal of the crown prosecutor be singled out for the involvement of the Attorney General? If the Director Public Prosecutions could not be trusted with the decision alone he had no business to be the head of the service.

Even if he accepted, the amendment would add nothing of substance or use beyond what was already in the Bill.

Dutch growers get unfair advantage

HORTICULTURE

The Government had exerted the strongest possible pressure on the European Commission to require the Dutch to suspend preferential price guarantees for their horticultural industry. Mr Michael Jopling, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said at question time in the Commons.

The Government regarded the Dutch subsidy as illegal. Mr Jopling said, it was incompatible with the Treaty of Rome.

He said Mrs Marion Roe (Bristol) said that the Commission was now considering what action to take in the light of comments received from member states and other interested parties since it instituted proceedings under the Treaty.

Mrs Roe UK growers simply cannot compete. It would seem to be a calculated policy of the Dutch Government to create an unfair advantage which our UK producers simply cannot compete.

Mr Thomas Torney (Bradford South, Lab): It is time

The General Synod

Church decides against taking bishops measure back to the Commons

Moving that the synod should resubmit the Appointment of Bishops Measure to Parliament for approval, Professor J. D. McClean (Sheffield) recalled that it had been approved in July 1983 by overwhelming majorities in the three houses of synod.

The measure sought to abolish two ceremonies and to make new and more appropriate arrangements for the taking of oaths by a new bishop and for the passing to him of spiritual authority over his diocese.

The removal of the ceremonies did not touch the royal supremacy of which there would remain many reminders. Nor did the change in ceremonial touch the processes and conventions which lead to the announcement from Downing Street of the name of the bishop designate.

Since the creation of the Crown Appointments Commission with its elective representatives of clergy and laity of the diocese, the context had changed, and there was fuller expression of the mind of the diocese than could ever be given by a chapter, of no obviously representative character, and acting solely in response to a royal or prime ministerial decree.

The synodists must not forget the historical significance of the event of 1976 when a prime minister gave back to the church most of the stolen rights to choose its own bishops. The State had tied its hands in the appointment of bishops and

Synod voted by a narrow majority yesterday not to resubmit a measure about the appointment of bishops that was rejected by the House of Commons last summer.

Several speakers, among them the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, said that this technical measure was not an issue on which the church ought to risk a confrontation with Parliament.

The measure would have made technical changes in the method, dating from Tudor times, by which bishops, nominated by the Crown, are given their legal authority.

By Amanda Haigh and John Winder

The argument about bishops had gone off the rails. If they believed in episcopacy and that bishops should be people of standing in society, because they are pastors of the church, then it was an embarrassment to have such a curious system of choosing them in the first place.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said around this measure was a whole cluster of arguments. They had generated much heat.

In providing an opportunity for this synod again to consider the main point at issue on the basis of the debates in Parliament he believed the standing committee was right not to advise synod simply to withdraw but it was right to ask for a clear vote in favour of the measure. Only if synod could provide that, and that measure of support for the standing committee, did synod deserve a proper consideration of the measure on its merits.

That was what they must decide, whether Parliament was to be asked to consider again the measure on its merits and not whether Parliament had the right, which undoubtedly it had, to reject the measure.

Mr Colin Buchanan, Diocese of Southwell, said Tudor relics had their place in museums. He personally did not regret the departure of this measure from the scene, although he did not really welcome the assistance of Mr Enoch Powell and others with their extraordinary arguments.

Synod had no control when it came to Parliament. It had two options: either it went to Parliament or it did not. If it went through, it would be forgotten as merely a hiccup. If it did not then the synod was humiliated, synod would have lost a real battle. Synod had taken a severe blow from Parliament, a declaration of war. If synod decided to try its own ambush of the Commons, there was always the danger of losing.

The Bishop of Rochester, Dr David Sey, a member of the standing committee and one of the witnesses on behalf of the synod before the ecclesiastical committee of Parliament, said he supported Professor McClean

in his argument that the matter should be re-presented to Parliament, not least because Parliament's own ecclesiastical committee, 15 peers and 15 MPs, had found this measure to be expedient.

If synod did not re-present this measure to Parliament, it must withdraw it and start all over again. That would mean that the present procedures of election and confirmation would continue. "I believe synod having made up its mind to make modest changes, it would be a retrograde step to change course now."

"The church only has experience of the working of this new system under one prime minister and it is therefore premature in my judgement to start taking up the roots and looking again at what we planted so recently."

Mr Frank Field, MP, said: "We are gaining disestablishment and we are gaining it on soft terms for both State and church. If you do not do it [send it back] you will be doing a gracious act."

The Very Rev Alan Webster, Dean of St Paul's, said that they were no longer in the age of Bonhoeffer but in the 1980s against that background he asked for the measure to be approved.

Sir William van Straubenzee,



Close conferring: The Bishop of Willesden, the Right Rev Geoffrey Thompson (left) and the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard at Church House, Westminster yesterday (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

MP, who presented the measure to the Commons last summer on behalf of synod, said that when he presented the measure he had believed he had a large majority behind him. As soon as he had walked into the Commons on that late night and found the chamber crowded he had known that they would lose the measure.

Synod should say that it had weighed up the matter and should ask for the measure to be given general approval but they could not do that if they showed by a vote that they were divided. "I do not want to contemplate a second refusal."

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, said that Parliament had said to synod by its vote that the issue was important. That put in synod's hands a whole new argument for saying that it was important to see that the church was seen to have the last word in the appointment of its bishops.

Canon P. H. Boulton, Southwell, hoped that this modest proposal to remove the medieval trapping, now replaced by the synodical process, would be accepted. If there was to be a clash with Crown about the appointment of bishops, it had to be something which was seen

as involving a crown prerogative in relation to the church, not the crown prerogative via Parliament as well. One opponent would be enough, they did not want two.

Winding up the debate, Professor McClean said that their decision had been clear-cut in 1983 and he could not see that the balance had changed.

In a division the proposal to return the measure to Parliament was rejected. The bishops voted 16 for and 16 against; the clergy voted 66 for and 114 against; and the laity voted 99 for and 84 against.

ET-a plain man's guide to correct English

By Kenneth Gosling

A plain man and woman's quarterly guide to the correct use of English is to be published later this month by the Cambridge University Press as its first venture into magazines.

The first editorial, by Mr Tom McArthur, the editor, admits that editing *English Today*, or ET as it is familiarly known, has led to his developing a fellow feeling for tight-rope-walkers and chefs. "Certainly", he writes, "ET's success will depend on keeping one's balance and getting all the ingredients right."

He has the comfort of knowing that, apart from the American-based magazine *Verbatim*, ET has the field to itself. Its first issue, to be published with a special launch on February 28, clearly appears to plug a gap at a time when there is an unprecedented number of English speakers worldwide causing the language to enter, the editor says, "a period of unparalleled activity and change."

The fact that the press release spells "unparalleled" with four "l"s makes ET controversial from the start.

Also likely to cause some divisions among students of English is Jenny Cheshire's assertion in the first issue that a built-in masculine bias in English has serious implications for both men and women.

Kidnapping threat over Dail vote on birth control

By Richard Ford

An anonymous letter threatening the kidnapping of the wife or one of the six children of Mr Paul Connaughton, minister of state in the Irish Republic, unless he opposed reform of family planning law, was received yesterday as the Irish parliament began debating the issue.

Another letter delivered to the Fine Gael deputy's home in County Galway threatened to burn the house down.

The letter was received while Mr Connaughton was in Dublin for the debate.

Mr Connaughton confirmed that he would support the Bill but the threat is the most serious yet to be made against backbenchers and ministers. Several, including Dr Garret FitzGerald, the republic's prime minister, have received hate-mail and some have had abusive telephone calls amidst increasing pressure to ensure that the reform is defeated when it is voted on in the Dail next week.

The reform will make non-medical contraceptives available to people over 18 without a doctor's prescription.

The Government remains confident that it will be passed.

Opening the second reading of the Bill in the Dail yesterday, Mr Barry Desmond, Minister for Health, criticized the "insidious form" of moral blackmail being used against many deputies.



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Mystery as blockage shuts down Sellafield plant

Part of the nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield, in Cumbria, has been shut down because of a blockage involving radioactive material, its operators confirmed yesterday.

British Nuclear Fuels (BNF) said that the blockage, in one of the evaporators of the main separation plant, caused the shutdown at the beginning of the month.

Engineers are still trying to unblock the evaporator, but are confident normal work will restart in a week to ten days. A BNF spokesman said: "If you have a blockage of radioactive material you have to devise a way of moving it mechanically. You don't rush into things because people could be at risk."

The blockage is in building 205 where spent fuel from Magnox reactors is reprocessed. The spent fuel rods are treated chemically to separate highly active nuclear waste material from plutonium and uranium which can be used again.

British Nuclear Fuels earns

millions of pounds each year by reprocessing spent fuel from other countries. But the spokesman added: "It is too early to say if the shutdown is going to lose us money."

The cause of the blockage was not known yesterday.

A report by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has shown that levels of radioactive plutonium on a beach near Sellafield are higher than safety limits inside the atomic complex. The report, from MAPF, shows that plutonium levels in silt at Ravenglass are 140 pico-Curies per sq cm, compared with 100 inside the general areas at Sellafield.

A survey by an anti-nuclear group, Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment, shows that the figure at Ravenglass is as high as 212, twice the Sellafield limit.

A BNF spokesman said that limits for working areas at Sellafield were cautious and it was no secret that the figures outside were higher.

Unknown couple found dead on estate

Police were attempting yesterday to find the identity of two people found dead on the estate of the Queen's racing manager, Lord Porchester.

A young man and a woman were found in a fume-filled car parked on Lord Porchester's estate at Highclere, in Hampshire, on Tuesday. The police do not think there are any suspicious circumstances, but they have been unable to identify the couple.

The dark blue Ford Cortina in which they were found was registered in a false name, and documents with them also proved to be false.

Police inquiries have extended to Cumbria, Somerset, the Thames Valley and Hampshire.

Doctors put case for deputizing

Family doctors went before a disciplinary committee yesterday to explain why they are defying the Government on deputizing services. The guidelines generally aim at limiting the amount of use doctors may make of such services.

Five doctors face the first private hearing of the Leeds medical services committee where they are accused of breaching guidelines for deputizing work. The doctors are members of an out-of-hours group called the Leeds Doctors Cooperative, which has 200 members. They say the confrontation about deputizing is a test case. Doctors say they should be excluded from the guidelines because the service is run on a non-commercial basis.

Central America in crisis as Washington allies quit Contadora meeting

From John Carlin, Mexico City

The long-awaited Contadora meeting to seek diplomatic solutions to the conflicts in Central America was cancelled at the last minute after Washington's principal allies in the region, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras, decided jointly to withdraw. Prospects for peace in the region now look bleak.

The foreign ministers of the three nations debated for four hours on Wednesday and then issued a statement that they would not attend the meeting between the Contadora group - Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama - and representatives of the five Central American governments in Panama City yesterday and today.

Ostensibly, it was a two-month diplomatic dispute between Costa Rica and Nicaragua which led to this latest disappointment in the Contadora group's two-year effort to find a peaceful settlement in Central America.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry has issued a communiqué saying the meeting has been postponed until "a more propitious moment", judging the time is not right for achieving co-operation and peace in a part of the world where three of the five countries are involved in guerrilla wars.

The United States last month broke off a series of high-level diplomatic talks with Nicaragua, held periodically since June last year, leading diplomats to conclude that it would be a long time before a peaceful political alternative became plausible in the region.

Nicaragua said the US, with its "irresponsible and bellicose policies" was responsible for disrupting the Contadora meeting.

Mexico's leading daily newspaper *Excelsior* said in a leading article yesterday that it was unjustifiable for the meeting to have been called off. The Mexican press was unanimous that the US had wrecked the meeting.

European diplomats in the region said they believed the Reagan Administration put pressure on Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador to sabotage the meeting, a view confirmed in an American foreign policy document leaked in Washington.

One Mexican daily, *La Jornada*, reflected a widespread view among Central American observers. "It is beyond doubt", said, "that the option of war continues in the hands of the United States which has demonstrated it can move pawns in Central America when the moment and US interests demand it."

● **SAN JOSÉ:** Dr Carlos Gutiérrez, Costa Rica's Foreign Minister, said: "We are not going to the meeting." He denied the three countries were quitting Contadora (Martha Honey writes).

He said delegations from the three would discuss the latest Contadora draft treaty and hoped to announce a joint document to put to the others.

Guatemala has refused to side with the conservative majority in the latest crisis which arose from a seemingly minor dispute between Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Centres, on the case of a 23-year-old Nicaraguan law student, José Urbina Lara, who was given asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua last year. On Christmas Eve, he was shot and slightly wounded by an embassy guard as he apparently attempted to leave with his girlfriend. The youth was subsequently sentenced to five years for draft dodging and collaboration with guerrilla groups.

Costa Rica accused Nicaragua of violating embassy grounds and said it would withdraw from Contadora meetings until Señor Urbina Lara was allowed to go into exile. On Monday the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, Father Miguel D'Escoto announced that the student would definitely not be freed.

Soares gets new deputy in Lisbon reshuffle

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Senhor Rui Machete, the newly-elected leader of the Social Democrats, the junior partner in the socialist-dominated Portuguese coalition, had been proposed by the Prime Minister, Dr Mario Soares, to fill the vacant position of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence.

The vacancies follow the resignation two weeks ago of Senhor Carlos Mota Pinto as leader of the Social Democrats and his simultaneous withdrawal from the two key posts.

After being chosen as leader of the Social Democrats last weekend, Senhor Machete said his "main object is to relieve tension within his party and assure the stability of the coalition".

His party had been split into three bickering factions, unable to agree on a choice of candidate in the 1985 presidential elections.

PORTUGUESE CABINET

Prime Minister: Mario Soares (PS)
Vice Prime Minister and Defence: Rui Machete (PSD)
Minister of State: António de Almeida Santos (PS)
Interior: Eduardo Ribeiro Pereira (PS)
Foreign Affairs: Jaime Gama
Justice: Mário Raposo (PSD)
Finance: Emanuel Lopes (Independent)
Education: João de Deus Pinheiro (PSD)
Labour and Social Security: Amândio de Azevedo (PSD)
Health: António Maldonado Goncalves (PS)
Agriculture: Álvaro Barreto (PSD)
Industry and Energy: José Veiga Simão (PS)
Commerce and Tourism: Joaquim Faria do Amaral (PSD)
Culture: António Coimbra Martins (PS)
Public Works: João Rosado Correia (PS)
Quality of Life: Francisco Sousa Tavares (PSD)
Parliamentary Affairs: António de Almeida Santos (PS)
The Sea: Carlos Malheiro (PS)

Key: PS - Partido Socialista; PSD - Partido Social Democrático.

Botha not budging on Mandela release

Johannesburg - President P. W. Botha said Mr. Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned leader of the banned African National Congress, would have to stay in jail so long as he remained "committed to violence, sabotage and terrorism" (Michael Hornsby writes).

His offer of a conditional amnesty remained, South Africa's President said. Last Sunday, Mr. Mandela, in prison since 1962, refused to give any undertaking to renounce violence while the ANC was banned.

The negative response by both men is unlikely to stifle the growing demands on the Pretoria governments to open talks with the ANC.

Britons cleared

Boston (Reuters) - Sitting lack of evidence, a federal judge ordered the acquittal of two Britons, John Harrison, aged 45, and Barry Cogger, 23, accused of trying to smuggle a shipload of marijuana into the US. Four other Britons remain on trial.

Liner inferno

Madras (Reuters) - The death toll in a fire on an Indian ship, the 17,225-tonne *Chidambaram*, rose to 18 as rescue workers searched debris looking for the missing. Survivors described a 16-hour battle to control the blaze.

Belushi denial

Los Angeles - Cathy Smith, the singer, pleaded not guilty to the second degree murder in March, 1982, of the comedian John Belushi. She pleaded not guilty to 13 counts of giving Belushi cocaine. The primary hearing was set for March 12.

Reagan change

Bonn (Reuters) - President Reagan will not be in West Germany on May 3 for the 40th anniversary of VE Day as originally planned. His visit has been brought back to May 5 and 6. Strasbourg visit, page 9

Parade leader

New York (Reuters) - New York's St Patrick's Day Parade next month will again be led by an IRA sympathizer, Mr Peter King, financial controller of Nassau County, chosen as grand marshal, regards the IRA as "a legitimate reaction to British oppression."

Cairo hitch

Cairo (AP) - Sand storms closed Cairo airport to incoming flights yesterday. Visibility was cut to 500 yards. Flights taking off were not affected.



Valentine kiss: A warm embrace between President Reagan and his wife, Nancy, after he gave her a heart-shaped box of chocolates yesterday at Point Mugu naval air base, California.

Thatcher focus on Star Wars

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The talks which Mrs Margaret Thatcher is to hold with President Reagan here on Wednesday will be crucial in helping to shape a common NATO strategy for the US-Soviet arms talks opening in Geneva on March 12.

She will focus on the President's Strategic Defence Initiative, known as "Star Wars", which has been attacked by the Soviet Union and which will form one of the three key elements in the negotiations.

Moscow has said it will insist on agreements in all three sets of talks - strategic weapons, medium-range missiles and space weapons - before agreeing to sign a new arms pact.

The US, on the other hand, wants to treat each set of talks independently and to sign separate accords. Britain and other European countries are concerned that agreement on medium-range weapons could be held hostage by Soviet insistence on reaching agree-

ment in the other two sets of talks.

They were initially wary of Star Wars fearing it could lead to a decoupling of Western Europe from the US, but they have been satisfied by recent American assurance that the programme, if implemented, would include protection of its NATO allies.

This was discussed when Mrs Thatcher visited here in December. Administration officials stressed that Star Wars is only a research programme and any decision to produce and deploy space weapons is years away. The President reassured Mrs Thatcher that before any deployment took place there would be negotiations with Moscow.

Mrs Thatcher is due here on Tuesday evening and on Wednesday she will become the first British Prime Minister since Churchill to address a joint meeting of Congress. She will have a working lunch at the White House and separate

meeting with leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives.

On Thursday she is to see Mr James Baker, Treasury Secretary, and Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, before flying back to London.

She will be accompanied by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, and Mr Michael Heseltine, Defence Secretary, who will hold talks with their counterparts.

● **GENEVA:** Insistence by the Americans on going ahead with Star Wars would torpedo the Geneva negotiations, Mr Viktor Issraelyan, Russian delegate to the 40-nation UN Disarmament Conference, said (Alan McGregor writes).

He underlined, addressing a Press lunch, that last month's Shultz-Gromyko agreement had been for negotiations "on the entire complex of questions concerning nuclear and space arms in their inter-relationship". David Watt, page 16

Eager Kasparov angry at chess delay

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Gary Kasparov, aged 21, the challenger in the Moscow world chess championship, is said to be angry with Señor Florencio Campomanes, president of the International Chess Federation (Fide), for having intervened to cancel Wednesday's crucial

game when Anatoly Karpov, the champion, was in a weak position.

Chess sources say Kasparov believes he could have continued his remarkable comeback from 0-5 to make the score 4-5 and possibly 5-5. The new champion will be the first who records six wins.

To abandon the match at this stage would be without precedent. Some sources suggest that the Soviet Chess Federation would prefer Karpov, a loyal and orthodox communist, to retain the crown rather than lose to the flamboyant and individualistic Kasparov.



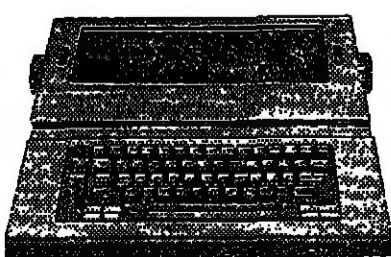
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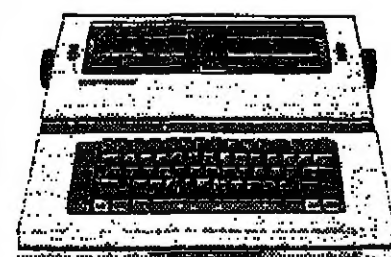
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Israel's pullout from Lebanon

Guerrilla war fuelled by Sidon's grim legacy

From Robert Fisk, Sidon

As the Israelis abandon Sidon, Husain Muhammad Haidar is one of the living legacies they will leave behind. He lies in the Rai hospital just south of the city, parts of his abdomen blasted away and three bullet wounds in his leg and arms. He is still in too much pain to talk more than a few words, but he tells his story simply.

He was working as a mechanic at a garage in the neighbouring village of Ghazieh a month ago when an Israeli patrol came down the road. The soldiers, he said, were firing their rifles to frighten off any guerrillas lying in wait for them. One burst of gunfire, Mr Haidar says, hit him across the body. He never saw any guerrillas; indeed, no ambush was reported in Ghazieh. But Mr Haidar has been in hospital ever since.

Dr Nabil Rai, no stranger to publicity since he is a leading figure in Sidon's "Popular Resistance Movement", has reported 30 such patients in his private hospital alone in the past six months. Dozens of others, hit by Israeli gunfire, have been admitted to other Sidon hospitals in the past two years, most of them apparent victims of Israel's policy of "reconnaissance by fire".

This Israeli tactic, the American Marine commander in Beirut once bluntly described

as "unprofessional". It is certainly extremely brutal. It means that Israeli soldiers spray both sides of a road with automatic fire to frighten away potential ambushers. Inevitably, some of the bullets hit people - usually, it seems, innocent people.

One of the most recent victims, Dr Rai says, was a Palestinian picking fruit in an orchard with other workers, wounded when the Israel is opened fire through the trees. Yet another Lebanese man was reported wounded by Israeli rifle fire in central Sidon on Wednesday afternoon.

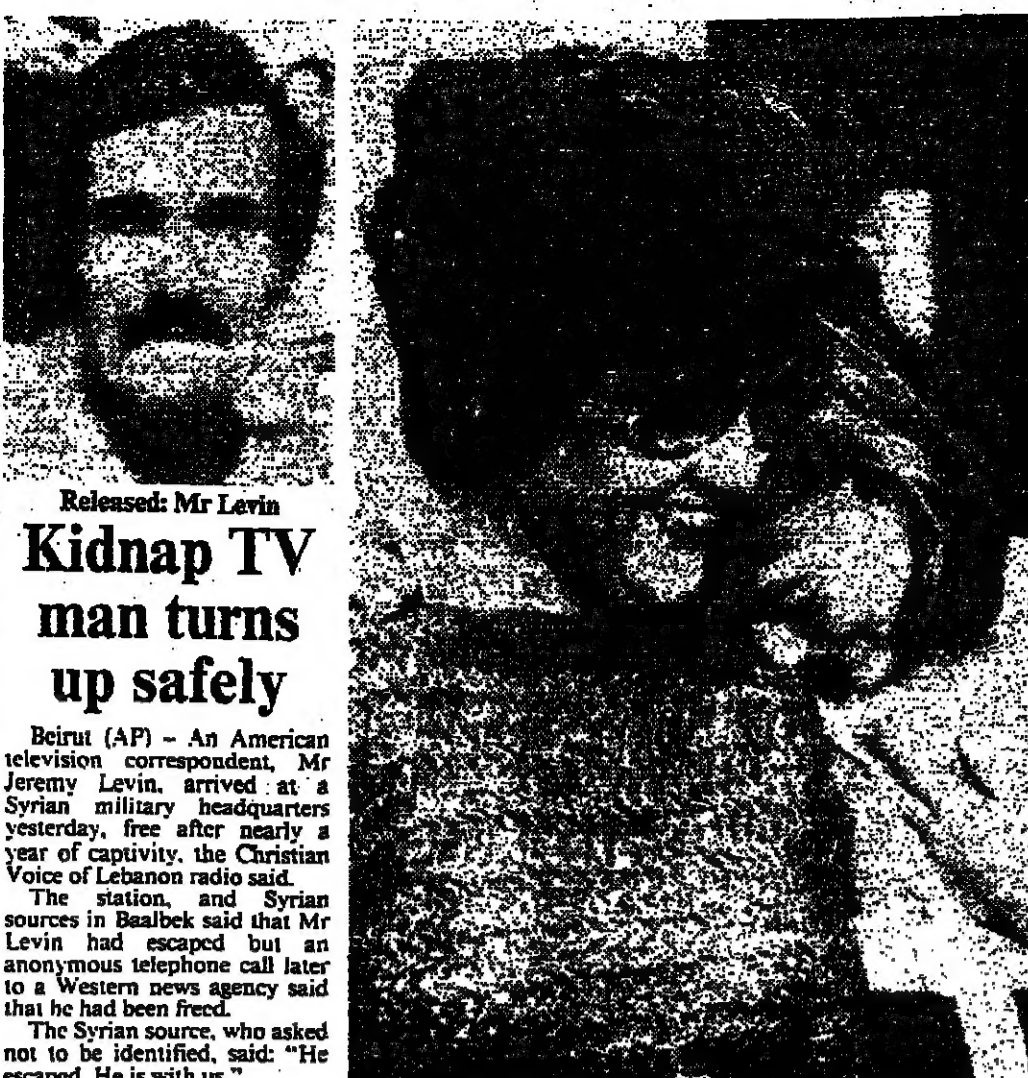
All this is some indication of why Israel had come to be hated in Sidon. But there are dead legacies here, too, the details of which are becoming clearer now that Israel's hold on the city has loosened and people feel free to speak. At the southern end of Riad Soih Street, there is a traffic junction, a well-kept lawn in the middle with palm trees round it. Today, it has become known as Martyrs' Square because up to 300 of the dead from Israel's 1982 air raid - Lebanese Muslims and Christians and Palestinians, most of them civilians - lie together beneath the lawn in a mass grave.

Yet another 125 - all civilians - are buried without any mark in the Islamic cemetery nearby.

They were all families living in the Jard apartment block in the Jezzine Road when an Israeli plane bombed the building in the early hours of June 7, 1982. Mahmoud Khadra, the Lebanese civil defence director in southern Lebanon, says he found them all afterwards, roasted in the basement.

He makes no secret of the fact that the PLO, having at one stage agreed to keep their guns away from civilian areas, cruelly broke their word and opened up anti-aircraft fire from the street outside, which is probably why the Israelis bombed the building. Mr Khadra and his civil defence men collected in plastic bags the charred bones of the 125 people in the cellar. Many of the skulls belonged to children.

These things are being remembered here now with great bitterness. One man lost almost all his relatives in the Jard building: his wife, his four children, his sister and brother-in-law and their five children, and his mother all died there. In war, it will be said, these things happen. And the Lebanese are - or were - a pragmatic people. But the last two-and-a-half years in Sidon have produced enough pain and grief to go on fuelling the guerrilla war against Israel long after its soldiers have left this city.



Released: Mr Levin
Kidnap TV
man turns
up safely

Beirut (AP) - An American television correspondent, Mr Jeremy Levin, arrived at a Syrian military headquarters yesterday, free after nearly a year of captivity, the Christian Voice of Lebanon radio said.

The station, and Syrian sources in Baalbek said that Mr Levin had escaped but an anonymous telephone call later to a Western news agency said that he had been freed.

The Syrian source, who asked not to be identified, said: "He escaped. He is with us."

The Voice of Lebanon said that Mr Levin, aged 31, appeared at a Syrian headquarters in the eastern Lebanese city of Baalbek.

The report that Mr Levin had escaped and sought refuge in Baalbek could not immediately be confirmed by the Government. (Our Correspondent writes).

Relieved: Mrs Lucille Levin, with her daughter Clare, after hearing in Washington that her husband was safe.

Mr Levin had worked as Beirut bureau chief of the Cable News Network. Until yesterday he had not been seen since last March 7, when he failed to report for work. Colleagues said at the time they feared he had been kidnapped.

The anonymous telephone caller claimed to represent Jihad Islami. He said that "The truth of the matter is that we released Levin."

Jordan and PLO agree on a joint peace team

Tunis (Reuters) - Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization have agreed to send a joint negotiating team "on an equal footing" to a future international peace conference on the Middle East, the Jordanian Prime Minister, Mr Ahmed Obaidat said yesterday.

PLO sources said the new accord envisaged less than an independent Palestinian state. One source said the text called for "self-determination within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation", a suggestion contained by the Prime Minister, who said that the accord envisaged the establishment of an "Arab confederation" as soon as conditions allowed.

The peace conference proposed in the agreement is separate from the Middle East talks fixed for Vienna next week between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Mr Obaidat, whose comments were reported by the official Tunisian news agency TAP, was speaking on arrival from Algiers at the head of a ministerial team to brief Tunisian officials on the accord.

Hardline colleagues of the PLO leader, Mr Yasser Arafat, have been quick to condemn the agreement.

Mr Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's Foreign Minister, and Mr Salah Khalaf, the deputy leader of Mr Arafat's Fatah guerrilla group, insisted that the PLO set up an independent state and retain the sole right to represent the Palestinians at any peace talks.

Their statements were issued after Mr Arafat left his Tunis headquarters for Romania, which has often served as a channel of communications between the Arabs and Israel. Mr Arafat has been under pressure to abandon the PLO's demand to represent the Palestinians, as both Israel and the United States refuse to deal with the organization. Hardliners have always insisted that any dilution of the PLO's right to represent the Palestinians would amount to liquidating the organization.

Oppression of West Bank Arabs alleged

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

A report alleging widespread discrimination against Arabs in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was submitted yesterday to Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, by members of the Civil Rights Movement, a left-wing opposition party with four deputies in Parliament.

The party was bitterly critical of the military authorities, whom it accused of systematically blocking Palestinian economic development. Ways of improving daily life including the setting up of a public board to oversee the implementation of laws.

The report noted that since 1967, no permission had been granted to West Bank Arabs to dig new water wells. In contrast, 20 deep-water sources had been located on the former Jordanian territory for Jewish settlers.

A similar contrast was found in the telephone service. It was disclosed that in the region south of Bethlehem, there were 7,000 telephone lines for Jews and only 260 for a much larger Arab population in the same district. The Arab town of Hebron, second largest in the West Bank, had 700 lines, while the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba overlooking it, had 4,000.

The report claimed that West Bank and Gaza Arabs working inside Israel (estimated at more than 50,000), received lower wages, enjoyed fewer holidays and received less compensation when sacked than Israelis of equal status. It was also alleged that Arabs were not entitled to sick leave.

Official quits

Buenos Aires - The second-ranking official in Argentina's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Señora Elsa Kelly, international relations secretary, has resigned because of reported differences with the Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo. She was unhappy with the relatively minor role assigned her, according to sources.

The famine in Ethiopia

Farmers' doubts hinder anti-erosion project

From Paul Vallely, Addis Ababa

For mile after mile on either side of the road which runs north from Addis Ababa and through the parched highlands of the Wollo and Tigre provinces, the eye is caught by a seemingly endless network of ditches cut into the sides of the hills. It is as if contour lines were the invention of the farmer rather than of the cartographer.

Even on a long journey away from the main road and into the heart of the central plateau, this bonding is still visible in all directions. It is the result of one of the most massive anti-soil erosion programmes undertaken anywhere in Africa. Over the past decade under a joint programme by the Ethiopian Government and the World Food Programme, tens of thousands of miles of ditches have been cut to catch rainwater as it runs off the hills and increase its seepage into the soil, thus stemming the erosion which has denuded the highlands of its fertile topsoil. It is also designed to increase the yield per hectare of the teff and sorghum crops which are the staple of the highland farmer.

But so far their effect seems to have been limited to checking erosion rather than raising yields. "It has become a problem," an agricultural economist said. "Farmers have to give up as much as 10 per cent of their productive land to this sort of bonding and terracing and if they see no return on the investment - in terms of increased yield they begin to think that the whole process is not worth the effort and stop bothering. There is some evidence that this has now begun to happen."

The next phase in the programme involves large-scale reforestation with 150 million seedlings, mainly of African olive trees, to be planted each year in the newly dug ditches. Where this has already been done, the World Food Programme experts claim surprisingly quick results. At the foot of the steep reforested slopes long-dry springs have started flowing again, a sign that some water is once more percolating into the ground rather than running off the surface.

Soil erosion has been a constant factor in the country for centuries. The ancient fertility of the Nile Valley in Egypt has always depended upon the good soil washed down from the Ethiopian highlands. But in recent decades the process has intensified. In the feudal times before the revolution, landlords left much of their land fallow to keep rent and crop prices high. The result was that the growing population of peasants was forced to cultivate increasingly steeper hillsides for its own use. The steeper the slope, the quicker the erosion and the sooner the peasants were forced into clearing even more marginal land.

Mountain airdrops begin

By Our Foreign Staff

Daily airdrops of grain to Ethiopian peasants in remote mountain areas began this week after prolonged negotiations between the Government and United Nations officials.

The operation involves Polish helicopters and transport planes from the British and West German air forces which drop the grain on wooden pallets from a height of 50ft. The Soviet Embassy has told the UN that Russian helicopters will become involved in two weeks.

Bomb disposal hero takes on Pacific challenge

The Army officer who last weekend disposed of a Second World War bomb, found in Sheffield, will on Monday lead a team flying to the Solomon Islands in the Pacific to clear unexploded ammunition (Rodney Cowton writes).

Captain Paddy Bowen and his team of 25 Royal Engineers will go to Guadalcanal, which was the scene of exceptionally heavy fighting during the Second World War.

The men will have eight weeks to clear an area to allow the runway of the only international airport on the islands to be extended.

Lange denies US cut flow of information

Wellington (Reuters) - The New Zealand Prime Minister Mr David Lange, said yesterday that defence intelligence had been received from Australia and the United States since Wellington rejected a US nuclear warship's visit.

"That's the position and it was checked again this morning," he said of information from his Aussie allies.

Mr Lange had already denied a report in *Japan's Defence Weekly* that the US was withholding intelligence on Soviet activity in the Pacific because of the ban.

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T43

Elite's hatred of Kim underlines problem facing Korean democracy

From David Watts, Seoul

"Kim Dae Jung will never be anything in my country." The speaker's face was screwed into an expression of disgust.

He was only a minor government official, but his opinion is shared by many in the elite. It is based not merely on dislike of a man, who is trying to remove the government of President Chun Doo Hwan, but on visceral hatred.

The depth of that hatred is a measure of how difficult it is going to be for South Korea to build a functioning democracy on the foundation of the surprising new strength of the principal opposition party.

What is not in doubt is the popular support for Mr Kim. He is shown by the estimated 15,000 people who walked out to the airport to greet him, despite the Government's attempts to discourage them, on his recent return after two years' self-exile in the US.

He exacerbated the elite's hatred by coming home with an escort of American Congressmen and a human rights activist who were not only ready to see South Korea in the worst possible light, but who have been accused of engineering a confrontation at the airport to prove how repressive the Government is.

Mr Kim Young Sam, his co-chairman in the Council for the Promotion of Democracy, is seen in a slightly better light, but the Government will be in no hurry to restore his freedom to organize against it.

But for democratic progress to be made, at least Mr Kim Young Sam must be given his freedom, and for international

considerations alone, Mr Kim Dae Jung will have to be given more freedom than he has now.

The problem is that though President Chun might allow him more leeway, there are plenty of men in uniform who believe Mr Kim's liberal views on free trade unions and unification are tantamount to a sell-out to North Korea.

The businessmen of the big *chaebol*, or corporations, agree wholeheartedly that the last thing they want is anyone to rock the boat. The last time that happened, when President Chun took power, economic growth virtually stopped.

But the election results have limited the President's options. Having started a process of gradual liberalization, it is hard to stop. Even if the generals and some of his advisers say he must circumscribe the new opposition or even dissolve the Assembly after 12 months, as he is empowered to do, that can only bring a backlash both at home and abroad.

"Either relations are going to solidify with the generals and the Blue House determined to keep the lid on, or they're going to have to accept it as a vote of no confidence," a Western diplomat said.

"But if they accept the situation, they have to deal with these old-line politicians and they are not going to be easily manipulated. The Government is not going to have an easy time, but what can they do?"

Much will depend on how the new opposition behaves once it gets into the Assembly and to what extent, if any, it is able to

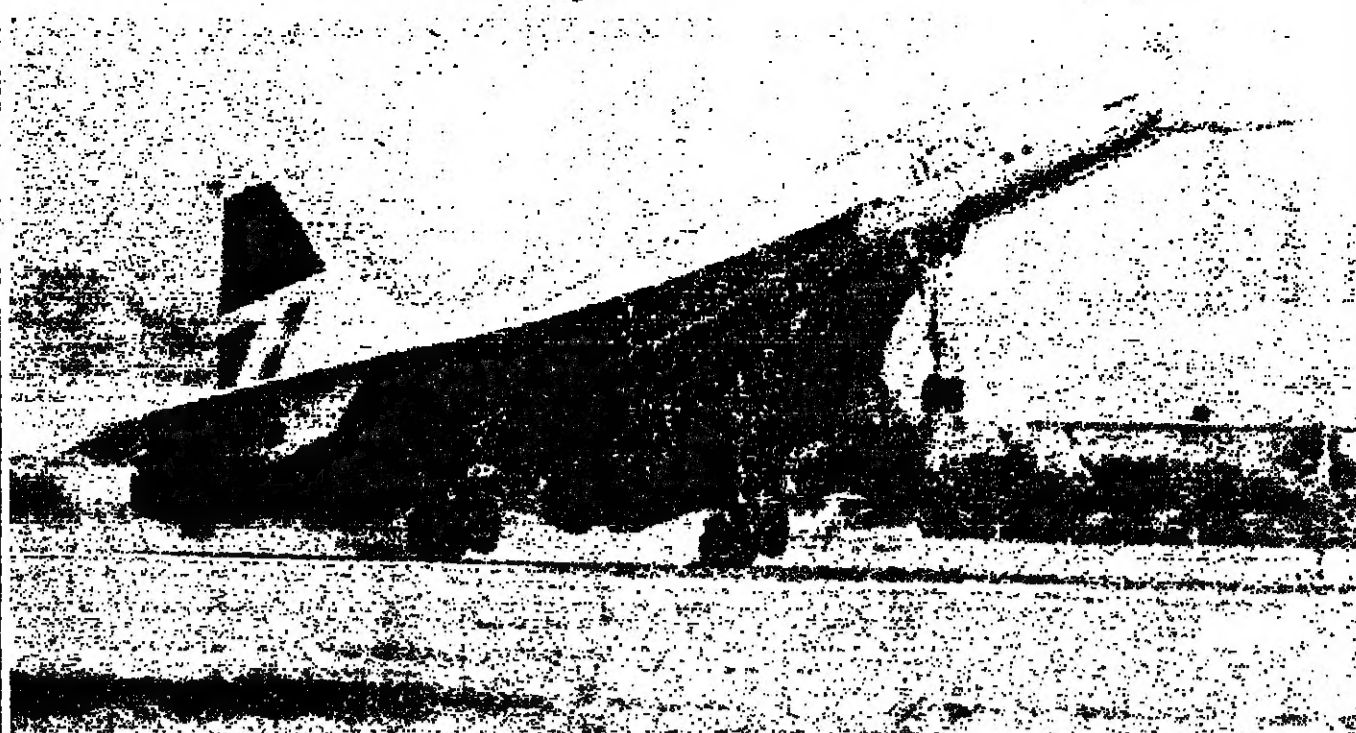
unify. The precedents are not good. Even in the aftermath of the Kwangju uprising in 1980, when hundreds of people were killed by troops, none of the leading political figures in the opposition were able to sacrifice personal ambition to allow an individual to step forward as a civilian president. So far there is no evidence that any key personalities have changed their attitude.

Relations with the United States have undergone a temporary strain over the return of Mr Kim and the treatment of the Congressmen, but when President Chun goes to Washington in April, he will be able to report on good progress towards democratization and, no doubt, President Reagan will remind him of the need to keep the process moving by standing down in 1988, as he has promised.

The effect on relations with North Korea is less clear. Mr Kim Dae Jung reiterates that the chances for stability and successful talks on reunification are enhanced by more democracy at home. But the North is always seeking to include obscure opposition figures from the South in discussions.

That the opposition is now more effective may convince it to wait a while in the hope that it will have a more amenable government with which to negotiate after 1988. In the meantime, the North has indicated that talks with the Red Cross on divided families will re-start shortly after the present American Team Spirit military exercises finish.

Half a world away, faster than ever before



British Airways Concorde landing at Sydney yesterday to trim seven hours from the fastest time by a subsonic aircraft for the 10,600 mile flight from London. Concorde's first commercial flight to Sydney, part of which was

flown supersonic, took just 17 hours, 3 minutes and 45 seconds. The charter flight carried 91 passengers who will join a cruise on the Cunard liner Queen Elizabeth 2, which berthed in Sydney yesterday.

The flight had been heralded by a tiny Valentine advertisement in an otherwise blank page in London newspapers: "Darling Sydney, we will be breaking all records to be with you on the 14th. Love Concorde XX."

Police question seven after Solidarity raid

Warsaw (AFP) - Seven former leaders of Solidarity, arrested in Gdansk, are being questioned on suspicion of taking part in an illegal meeting, the Polish Government spokesman said yesterday.

They were seized by police on Wednesday as they met with Mr Lech Walesa to discuss a February 28 nationwide 15-minute protest strike, seen as an attempt to reactivate the banned movement.

Mr Walesa, who was not arrested, said the group had been making plans for the strike against food-price increases in a flat near his own home when police arrived in several cars and took seven away.

They are Mr Adam Michnik, Mr Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, Mr Bogdan Lis, Mr Janusz Paluchowski, Mr Stanislaw Handzlik, Mr Mariusz Wilk and Mr Jacek Merkel.

VE-Day celebrations send MEPs into battle

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

The European Parliament, basking in new-found importance with the announcement of President Reagan's visit on VE Day, yesterday set out to define how and why it should celebrate the 40th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe.

It provided an excuse for the right to denounce the "violation of human rights" by communism since Yalta and for the left to warn against the insidious and continuing infiltration of fascism.

There was an attempt to word a resolution in a way which could be interpreted as a call for the reunification of Germany and another, equally unsuccessful, to shout down the democratically-elected member who might now be emperor of the Hapsburg Empire had it not been for two world wars.

According to Mr Glyn Ford, the Labour MEP for Manchester East who is chairman of the Parliament's committee of inquiry into the spread of fascism and racism, Europe was in the process of forgetting the suffering of the war and

According to Lord Bethell (Conservative, London North-West) and friend of Soviet dissidents, people were forget-

ting to speak out against the enslavement of eastern Europe: Hitler's camps had been emptied 40 years ago to fill those run by Stalin.

Resolutions were passed calling for "a tighter and more closely-knit union of the member states," with the hope that the European Community would be "a first step towards the unification of the European Continent."

Just how the Parliament will celebrate VE Day was left to its president. But with Mr Reagan the star attraction (to the fury of Italian radicals) the aim is to show that the Europe of the Ten has the influence needed to fight against war.

● **MAFIA INQUIRY:** Parliament yesterday called on the European Commission to investigate the Mafia in the Community. Members voted to set up an EEC inquiry, particularly in Sicily into the way in which Community money was diverted to the brotherhood.

One successful resolution was tabled by Mr James Provan (Conservative, North East Scotland) who demanded support for Italian Communists leading the fight for freedom from Mafia interference.

Schmidt says US boom paid for by others

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

Reagan optimistically called the boom of the past two years in the United States a second American boom, a second revolution. It was in fact a second time bomb, ticking like the problem of Latin America's debts.

In a bitter attack on what he described as American complacency about its enormous budget deficit, Herr Schmidt accused the Reagan Administration of "happy disregard" of the debtor countries.

He said in a front-page article in the respected weekly *Der Zeit*, of which he is the joint publisher, that while President

Hitler's 'illegitimate son' dies

From Michael Blayon, Bonn

The mass-circulation newspaper, *Bild*, yesterday gave front-page prominence to the news that a 66-year old man claiming to be Hitler's illegitimate son had died in France.

M. Jean-Marie Lorent, who died in San Quentin of a heart attack, maintained that his mother, Mme Charlotte Lobje, had a liaison with Hitler while he was serving on the Western Front in 1917. *Bild* said that Hitler used her as a model for a nude painting and seduced her. A son was born to her in March 1918 in Sebon-

court, and the birth register said the father was unknown. M. Lorent maintained that his mother told him who his father was shortly before her death in 1951. He first made the claim public in 1977.

The report has caused little but scepticism here, especially in light of the Hitler diaries scandal. But one of Hitler's biographers, Professor Werner Maser, maintains the claim was true.

M. Lorent, who had nine children, tried to change his name, without success, according to *Bild*. He was reported to have sought DM18 million in royalties on sales of Hitler's book *My In Kampf*.

● **FDP CALL:** The Free Democrats in the Bonn coalition have issued fresh calls for legislation making it a punishable offence to maintain in public that the Nazis did not kill millions of Jews.

Herr Hans Engelhard, the FDP Minister of Justice, appealed to Parliament to pass the so-called "Auschwitz Lie" law.

Leading article, page 17

Now Japan threatens to leave Unesco

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The crisis within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has deepened with the announcement by Japan, the second biggest contributor to Unesco's budget, that it too may have to reconsider its membership unless further reforms are made.

Speaking at a special session of Unesco's 50-member executive board in Paris, Mr Takashi Kagawa, the Japanese delegate, said that reforms made over the 15 months since the United States first gave notice of withdrawal had not been sufficient.

"Grave concern" about Unesco was growing in Japan, he said. Japan would be "compelled to reconsider" its relations with Unesco unless its reform proposals were implemented before the end of the year.

The withdrawal of the US from Unesco at the end of last year means that Japan now pays for 13.5 per cent of Unesco's new reduced budget. The Russians, now the largest contributors, pay for nearly 15 per cent. Britain, which has said it will withdraw at the end of this year unless further reforms are made contributes 6 per cent.

The US, which used to pay 25 per cent is steadfastly refusing its contribution for the current year, despite a threat from Mr Amadou M'Bow, the Unesco Director-General, to take it to the International Court of Justice at The Hague. Mr M'Bow announced earlier this week that the withdrawal of the American contribution meant that there was a shortfall of \$43 million (about £40 million) in the 1985 budget.

Of that, \$15 million had already been saved through economies in last year's budget, leaving \$28 million still to be found.

Most western countries, including Britain, are adamantly opposed to any increase in their contributions. But France, always anxious to present itself as a friend of the Third World, has surprised everyone by announcing that it will make an exceptional contribution of \$2 million.

Much lobbying is going on by western nations, including Japan, to get some kind of commitment to a zero growth budget for the next two-year period.



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Hanoi troops rout the Khmer Rouge

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok

As Vietnamese and Cambodian Government forces captured more guerrilla-held territory near the Thai border, the last of 230,000 civilians supporting the guerrillas were driven across into Thailand, officials said.

Major General Sant Siriphen, the Thai Army commander on the border, said: "It's all over", referring to the Vietnamese offensive which began against the resistance three months ago. Intelligence sources said: "The battle is going badly for the guerrillas" and a Western diplomat in Bangkok said: "It looks like the beginning of the end of organized resistance near the border."

Among those Cambodians flooding into Thailand over the past four days were some 2,000 Khmer Rouge guerrillas. They gave up their weapons to Thai soldiers as they crossed the border.

The whereabouts of between 60,000-70,000 other fighters is unclear but certainly many are among the refugees who have flooded across the border. Others are still striking at government forces and installations deep inside Cambodia.

Vietnamese military operations since the weekend have wiped out what was called the "free zone" of Cambodia. The resistance now has no territory it can call its own. The Khmer Rouge, led by its military commander Pol Pot still has hideouts in western Cambodia but its losses this month reduce its credibility as an alternative government.



Beating a retreat: Khmer Rouge guerrillas armed with rocket-propelled grenades, pulling out of a stronghold.

It was Vietnamese artillery rather than troops on the ground which brought about victory. Howitzers, mortars and tank cannon have proved too much.

Casualty figures this week are still unclear.

According to Thai and guerrilla sources, 45 Cambodian civilians were killed but the International Red Cross admits that it has no idea of the total.

Continuing Vietnamese shell-fire in the area and shell holes in roads are hampering United Nations and Red Cross officials trying to get to people who need help.

Colonel Chhettha Thanajaro, Deputy Commander of the eastern border field force, said on the border yesterday that he expected the Vietnamese forces to complete their takeover of the Khmer Rouge headquarters by today (AP reports).

Colonel Chhettha said a rearguard Khmer Rouge force was trying to hold off the Vietnamese while the main units retreated into the jungle.

One Vietnamese column numbering about 6,000 troops and pushing from south to north captured Khao Din and took up positions at outposts on high ground.

Under a heavy umbrella of

artillery fire, a total 13,000 Vietnamese troops rushed from the south and east in a three-pronged attack. They took over half of Phnom Malai, the main Khmer Rouge headquarters.

The Khmer Rouge have roamed the Cambodian countryside for the past 15 years and successfully defended their mountain strongholds against Vietnamese offensives over the past five years.

Arsonists blamed for Manila hotel fire

From Our Correspondent
Manila

Police yesterday blamed arsonists for starting simultaneous fires on the second and ninth floors of a luxury hotel here, which killed at least 30 people, including three Britons, five Americans and a Canadian.

Firemen were still trying to contain pockets of the blaze yesterday in the smouldering remains of the Regent of Manila.

Witnesses said an electricity blackout preceded two loud explosions early on Wednesday, followed by the fires which quickly gutted the 460-room hotel. Arsonists are also blamed for five other recent hotel fires in which more than 40 people died.

Two news agencies reported receiving a note from a group calling itself "The Angels" which claimed responsibility for Wednesday's fires and threatened more violent acts against "the oppressive, satanic regime of Marcos and his gang".

Intense heat and thick smoke continued to prevent rescuers from reaching rooms on the upper floors of the nine-storey hotel, where more bodies are expected to be found.

The Britons who died included a Derbyshire couple who were celebrating their ninth wedding anniversary, the Foreign Office said. They were identified as Raymond Heard, aged 78, and his Filipino-born wife, Thelma, aged 41.

Iran's Islamic Republic: Part 2

Signs of economic trouble beneath surface buoyancy

Iran's clerical rulers have consolidated their authority, but their regime retains its makeshift character. In the second of two articles, Shaul Bakhash examines the contradictions of their economic and foreign policies.

The economy seems to be at once flourishing and in crisis. Iran seeks respectability in the international community, yet remains committed to exporting revolution and supporting extremist Shia movements in Lebanon and the Gulf.

Oil-financed imports and the purchasing power made possible by reckless deficit spending give the impression of a flourishing domestic market.

The plan organization has finally got its house in some order, and work is moving ahead on projects in such areas as steel, copper, petrochemicals, port and road construction, gas distribution and electric power generation.

But beneath the surface buoyancy there are signs of serious trouble. The hundreds of nationalized and confiscated industries, once highly profitable, are inefficient and continue to incur losses. A government programme to stimulate small-scale private industry through generous credits has wound badly.

The civil service, already inflated under the old regime, has grown fatter. There are nearly two million civil servants as against 1.1 million just six years ago. The revolutionary organizations have proliferated and are little accountable for the large allocations they receive. Strapped for funds, the Government raised fees for many services last year and has now submitted to Parliament a hotly contested Bill to raise income taxes.

More serious is the worsening foreign exchange situation. Falling oil prices, shrinking markets and the disruption of oil exports caused by the war with Iraq have led to a sharp drop in reserves. Severe restrictions were placed on imports last year and were recently

tightened. These measures will inevitably mean shortages of industrial raw materials and spare parts, of consumer goods and basic necessities.

Where economic policy is concerned, Iran's leaders are at an impasse. It is an indication of the paucity of new ideas, or a grudging admission that the bad old ideas were not so bad after all, that every major project under way or under consideration was planned or launched under the monarchy.

A debate between the supporters of the private sector and the advocates of further nationalization and state direction of the economy continues. This is a struggle which the bazaar merchants, the propertied middle classes, and the pragmatists in the Government appear to be winning.

The problems, however, remain: mismanagement, the claims of unproductive organizations on funds, lack of business confidence, the loss of skilled Iranians through purges and emigration.

The war with Iraq is at a standstill. Iran can no longer hope to win by force of arms. The United States has largely succeeded in blocking new arms sales to Iran. But Ayatollah Khomeini has set terms that rule out settling the war through negotiation. In the meantime, the war is an enormous drain on manpower, material and financial resources. It accounts for up to a third of the annual budget.

Nor is there a consensus on foreign policy. The present leadership contains factions committed both to spreading the Iranian revolution and to expanding trade and diplomatic relations with the rest of the world. The indecision in dealing with the pro-Iranian hijackers of a Kuwaiti airliner at Tehran airport in December was indicative of such splits in the revolutionary coalition.

Concluded
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REPAYMENT

1. A Bondholder may obtain repayment of a Bond at par before redemption upon giving 3 calendar months' notice. The Bond will earn interest at the Treasury rate from the date of purchase up to the redemption date where repayment falls on or after the first anniversary of purchase. Where the repayment date falls before the first anniversary of purchase the Bond will earn interest at half the Treasury rate from the date of purchase up to the redemption date.

2. Where an application for repayment of a Bond is made after the death of the holder or sole surviving registered holder no fixed period of notice is required and the Bond will earn interest at the Treasury rate from the date of purchase up to the date of repayment, whether or not repayment occurs before the first anniversary of the purchase.

3. Any application for repayment of a Bond must be made in writing to the Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool and accompanied by the investment certificate. The period of notice given by the Bondholder will be calculated from the date on which the application is received in the Bonds and Stock Office.

4. Application may be made for repayment of part of a Bond in an amount of £1,000 or a multiple of that sum provided that the holding of Bonds remaining after the part repayment will still fall within the minimum holding limit imposed by paragraph 4.1. If a Bond is repaid in part the date of purchase of the remaining balance will be the same date of purchase as the original Bond and the same interest rates as were applicable to the original Bond immediately prior to repayment.

5. A Bond may be repaid in part at any time provided that the holding of Bonds remaining after the part repayment will still fall within the minimum holding limit imposed by paragraph 4.1. If a Bond is repaid in part the date of purchase of the remaining balance will be the same date of purchase as the original Bond and the same interest rates as were applicable to the original Bond immediately prior to repayment.

6. A Bond may be repaid in part at any time provided that the holding of Bonds remaining after the part repayment will still fall within the minimum holding limit imposed by paragraph 4.1. If a Bond is repaid in part the date of purchase of the remaining balance will be the same date of purchase as the original Bond and the same interest rates as were applicable to the original Bond immediately prior to repayment.

7. Interest will be payable direct to a National Savings Bank or other bank account or by crossed warrant sent by post. Capital will be repaid direct to a National Savings Bank account or by crossed warrant sent by post.

8. A Bond may be repaid in part at any time provided that the holding of Bonds remaining after the part repayment will still fall within the minimum holding limit imposed by paragraph 4.1. If a Bond is repaid in part the date of purchase of the remaining balance will be the same date of purchase as the original Bond and the same interest rates as were applicable to the original Bond immediately prior to repayment.

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Name of Trust (if applicable) Date of Birth (essential if under 7)

3. NAME AND ADDRESS FOR DESPATCH OF INVESTMENT CERTIFICATE (if different from above)

4. DIVIDENDS TO BE PAID BY CREDIT TO: (if not to a National Savings Bank or other bank account, enter name and address to which dividend warrants should be sent)

5. Bank Sorting Code (shown in the top right hand area of your own cheques)

Address

A/c No A/c Name(s)

6. TIS

Signature(s) Date

Indonesia executes extremist

From Our Correspondent
Jakarta

An Indonesian Muslim extremist, aged 29, who was condemned to death on subversion charges, died before a firing squad at midnight after officials recited verses from the Koran at his remote execution site. The official Antara news agency said yesterday.

Salman Hafidz, whose appeal for clemency was denied by President Suharto earlier this year, was found guilty of subversion in 1982 for his part in a raid on a police station. Three policemen died in the attack.

Salman was the second member of a small band of Islamic extremists known as the Imron group to be executed. The leader, accused of masterminding the hijacking of an Indonesian aircraft to Bangkok in 1981, was executed in 1983. Antor said Hafidz's family had been allowed to visit him on the eve of the execution, but that his requests to bury his body had been denied.



Redgrave back to square one

Vanessa Redgrave (above) has had a \$100,000 award (\$92,000), made by a jury, thrown out by a federal judge. He ruled that the Boston Symphony Orchestra could not be held liable for damage to her career after cancelling her appearance in a concert series. Instead, she will get \$27,500, slightly less than her fee had she narrated Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*.

Township police action prompts inquiry call

From Our Correspondent, Cape Town

South Africa's Opposition Progressive Federal Party yesterday called for a judicial commission of inquiry to investigate allegations of police misconduct in curbing township unrest.

Mr John Malcomess, MP for Port Elizabeth Central, produced affidavits drawn up by fellow MPs in Bithenge, Cradock and Port Alfred in the Eastern Cape. He told the (white) House of Assembly here that the murder of a policeman in Cradock had naturally angered the force, but nothing justified law breaking by those whose duty it was to uphold it.

There have been allegations of shooting, wounding and killing of blacks, described as bystanders.

Mr Malcomess spoke as disturbances were reported in the Transvaal and Eastern Cape. Significantly, the violence has not spread to the Coloured and Indian communities which have recently been granted a form of political representation in the new three-chamber Parliament.

Although the problem has become endemic and has appeared at times to be as widespread and persistent as in

1976, when about 800 people were shot dead in Soweto and elsewhere, the casualty rate is now much lower. Only three or four deaths have been reported since January 1. Police use rubber bullets and birdshot rather than the lethal semi-automatic rifles which took such a heavy toll in 1976.

This week's incidents were at Atteridgeville, near Pretoria, where black youths at a memorial service were dispersed by police using tear-gas and plastic whips; at Seisonville, south-west of Johannesburg, where a government official fired into a crowd when his car was stoned; at Kaituma, south-east of Johannesburg, where youths set alight and destroyed a delivery lorry and stoned private cars; at Somerset East in the Cape, where a policeman fired into a crowd of about 6,000 seeking to burn down his house; and at Tembisa, near Pretoria, where a local council member's house was destroyed by fire.

The worst violence, however, has been in the Orange Free State town of Kroonstad, where 27 shops were burnt out by rampaging youths and 12 others partly destroyed.

Minister rebukes Manley

Recent demonstrations in Jamaica after a rise in fuel prices were politically orchestrated, a Jamaican Government minister claimed in London yesterday (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

Mr Hugh Hart, Minister of Mines, Energy and Tourism, agreed that Mr Michael Manley, the Opposition leader, had appealed for calm - but only, he claimed, when there was a

danger of the disturbances backfiring against his own party.

Mr Hart said that tourism figures for January and early February were 18 and 15 per cent up on last year, despite the troubles.

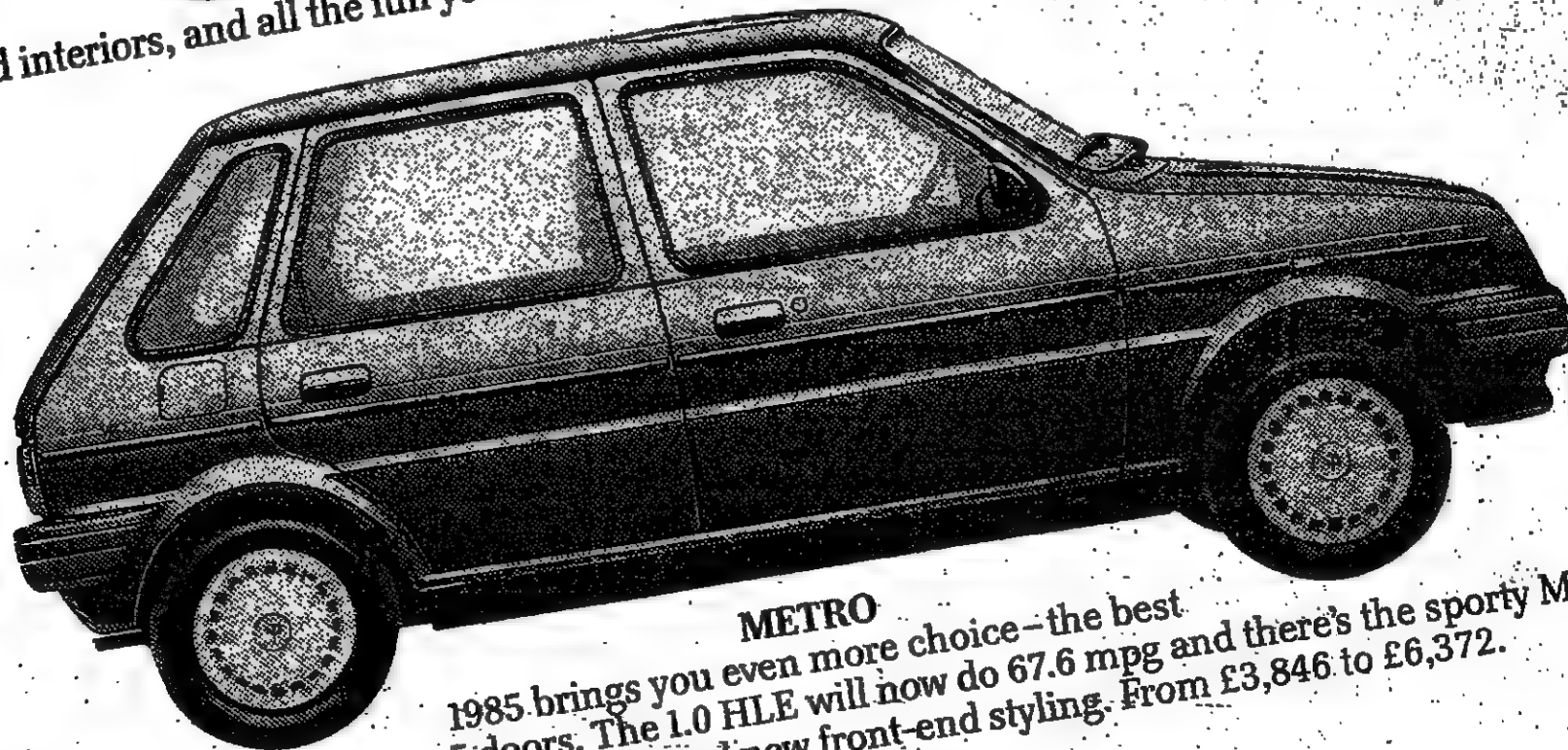
The minister is in Britain to try to boost tourism to a new target of one million in 1985.

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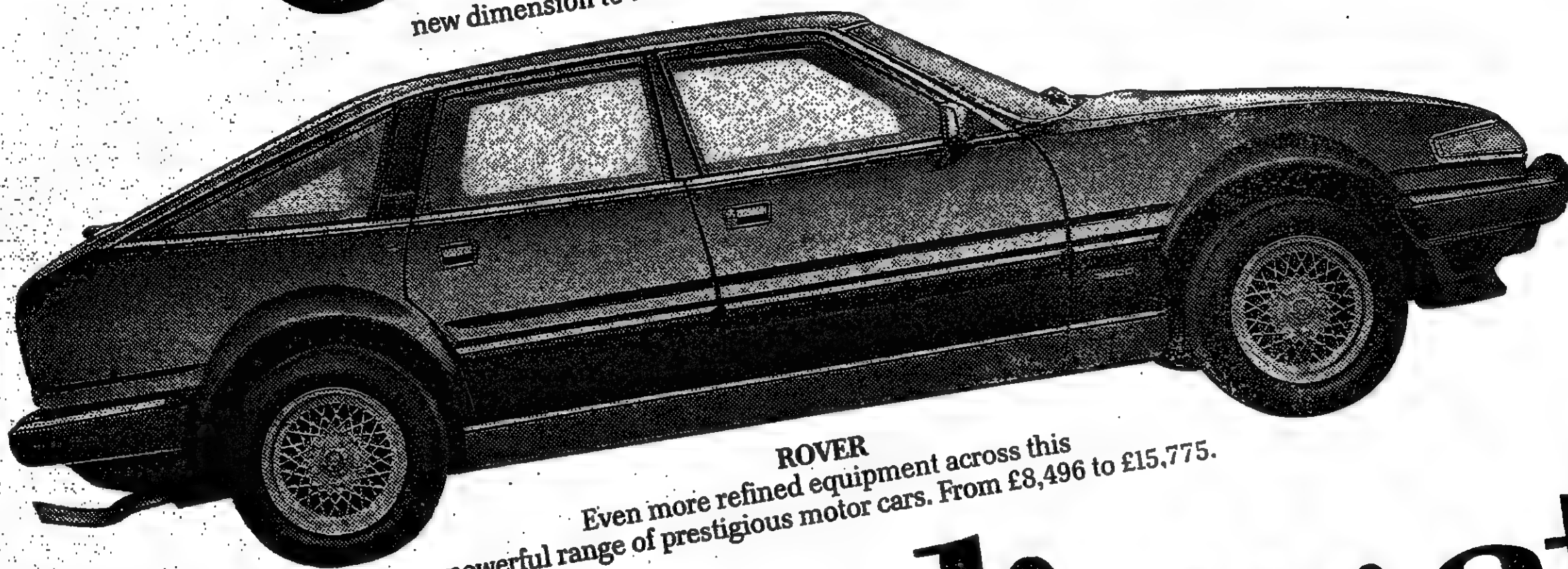
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From Austin Rover

DOT Figs: Metro 1.0 HLE simulated urban cycle 48.1 mpg/5.9L per 100km. Constant 56 mph 67.6 mpg/4.2L per 100km. Constant 75 mph 46.4 mpg/6.1L per 100km. Maestro 1.3L (5 speed): Simulated Urban Cycle 37.0 mpg/7.6L per 100 km. Constant 56 mph 58.2 mpg/4.9L per 100 km. Constant 75 mph 40.7 mpg/6.9L per 100 km. Prices correct at time of going to press excluding number plates and delivery. *Fleet Facts December 1984.

SPECTRUM

Old Master or masterly pastiche?

The Getty Museum has just paid a reputed \$7 million for a newly discovered painting. But its authenticity has been challenged.

Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent, charts the dispute

It is a contest of David and Goliath. Mr Alain Tarica, 41, a French art dealer who lives in New York, has challenged the art establishment by claiming that the latest purchase made by the Getty Museum in Malibu, California, is a forgery. It is an "Annunciation" thought to date from the 1450s and to be the work of Dieric Bouts; it is reputed to have cost them \$7 million. The painting, hitherto unknown, was discovered in a European collection by Derek Johns, a London dealer, and the sale was handled by a consortium of the world's leading Old Master dealers.

Mr Tarica describes the painting as a banal pastiche, begun by one hand and completed by another. It combines elements from two paintings, both Annunciations ascribed to Bouts, he says, using one for the Angel and left hand side, the other for the Virgin and architectural setting. He suggests that the first, very able forger, gave up when he found that the figures on each side of the painting were not in scale with each other. The second forger finished the painting introducing a lot of red drapery in the middle to cover up the problems.

He suggests that the picture was created within the last 50 years or so, maybe by trained restorers but certainly by people with a knowledge of 15th-century materials and techniques.

The expertise required for such deception would be extraordinary. The Getty's conservation experts have begun to study the painting and point out that the cloth on which the picture was painted is brittle with age and apparently identical to the cloth used in other paintings of the period. The pigments are also characteristic and include lead tin yellow which went out of general use in 1600. Mr Tarica's forgers, if they exist, have done their homework.

The Annunciation is one of three paintings ascribed to Bouts discovered by Derek Johns, who refuses adamantly to reveal the origin of any one of them. His sale in America was handled by Eugene Thaw, a leading New York dealer in Old Masters. He sold it first to Mr Ronald Lauder, the son of Estée Lauder of cosmetics fame.

In September Mr Lauder asked his friend and adviser Alain Tarica to go round to Thaw's and look at the picture. Mr Tarica instantly pronounced it a forgery and the battle was joined. Mr Thaw had arranged for the painting to go on loan to the Metropolitan Museum in New York. "The cost of insurance was very high when I had it at my place," he explains.

Sir John Pope-Hennessy, former director of both the Victoria and Albert Museum and the British Museum, is now consultant to the Metropolitan and describes the painting as "marvellous". John Brealey, their head of picture conservation, laughed at the forgery idea. "Your eyes can tell you how good it is, you don't need science," he says.

During the autumn of 1984 the picture became the talking point of the New York art world. Mr Lauder, however, found that he could not live with the doubt that Tarica had sown in his mind and returned the picture to Thaw.

Johns, Thaw and Artemis were the three dealers handling the sale of the painting and it was Mr Tim Bathurst of Artemis, based also in London, who rang the Getty's picture curator, Myron Laskin, at a Paris hotel last November to ask if the Getty was interested. The painting was flown to California before Christmas and the decision to buy it was taken in January.

Dieric Bouts was born in Haarlem around 1414 but worked in Louvain under the influence of Rogier van der Weyden and the Flemish school. One altarpiece in Louvain and a pair of pictures in Brussels are confidently ascribed to him - all other attributions are informed guesses by scholars.

Nearly all 15th century pictures that have survived are painted on panel. The Getty's Annunciation is in tempera on cloth. Contemporary documents prove that many such works were painted - Rogier's were especially admired - but only a dozen have survived.

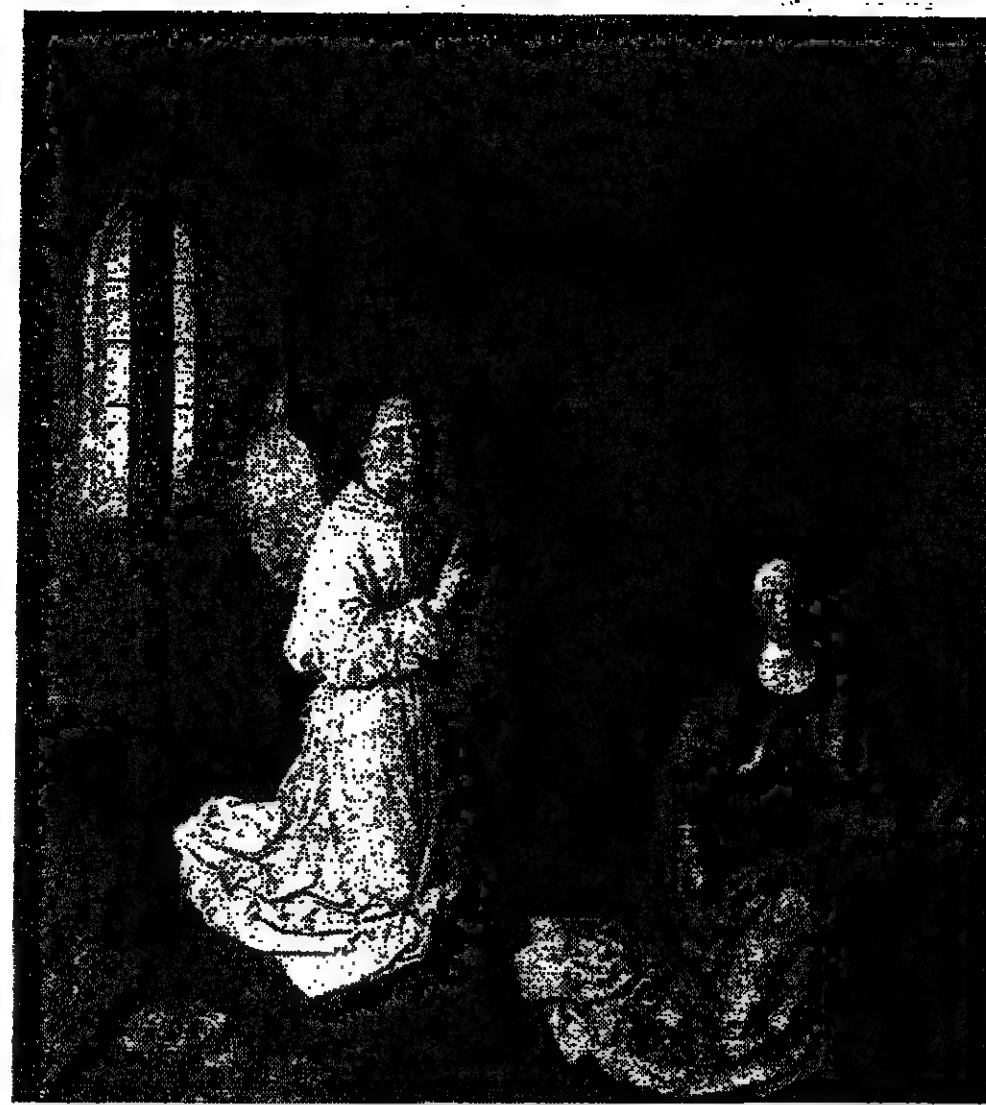
Until 1980 only one such painting in good condition was known, the Entombment ascribed to Dieric Bouts in the London National Gallery. It was bought in Milan in 1860 by Sir Charles Eastlake, the artist-director of the National Gallery who pioneered the return to fashion of early Italian and Flemish paintings - literally pre-Raphael.

Eastlake kept a daily journal and records being told in Milan of four paintings on cloth attributed to Lucas van Leyden. One was the Entombment, now ascribed to Bouts, which he bought for the National Gallery; another was an Adoration of the Magi which he saw and recorded as being in poor condition. He never saw the other two; on one visit he was told that they depicted the Crucifixion and the Presentation, on another they were reported as a Crucifixion and an Annunciation.

In 1972 a Crucifixion painting on cloth ascribed to Bouts, an over-restored ruin, was bought by the Royal Museum in Brussels. It is exactly twice the size of the Entombment and it has been suggested that they formed part of the same altarpiece, with the Crucifixion in the middle and two smaller paintings, one above the other, forming wings on either side.

The theory gained credence when a second painting on cloth in Bouts style, exactly the same size as the Entombment but depicting the Resurrection turned up out of the blue at Sotheby's in 1980.

Johns, then head of Sotheby's Old Master department, ascribed it to where it came from. The two paintings were put side by side in the National Gallery and appeared to use exactly the same pigments, cloth and technique - the only significant



The Getty "Annunciation" (top left) and suggested sources from which it could have been made up, the Virgin from the Prado Bouts (top right), the bed from the Metropolitan Rogier van der Weyden (bottom right) and the Angel from the Gelbke Bouts (bottom left).

difference being that the colours in the Resurrection were almost unaltered.

The National Gallery decided to try to buy the newly discovered painting but they were resoundingly outbid by Norton Simon, a famous Californian collector with a private museum in Pasadena. Sotheby's pre-sale estimate was £200,000 but he ended up paying £1,870,000.

Last year Derek Johns, now an art dealer and partner in the London firm Harari and Johns, produced the Annunciation which the Getty has purchased. He has also located a fifth Boutsian painting on cloth depicting the Adoration of the Magi. This is said to be in poor condition

with the landscape background totally repainted. It is now reputed to be in Switzerland but Johns says that it will never come on the market.

Johns has traced the catalogue of an exhibition at the Brera in Milan in 1872 in which three early Flemish paintings in tempera on cloth were exhibited, a Resurrection belonging to Count Vittorio Melzi, an Adoration belonging to Paolo Guicciardi and an Annunciation belonging to Giuseppe Casanova.

Johns believes these three exhibits to be the pictures that he has discovered. Tarica is by no means convinced that they are the original three paintings.

Derek Johns has refused to discuss the recent history of the painting, or those of the Resurrection and Adoration. Whether the three paintings that have recently come to light are the same as those recorded by Eastlake in 1860 and exhibited at the Brera in 1872 remains the big question.

A handwritten label on the back of the Annunciation casts an extra doubt. It reads "Bolletta N.21 Sgr. Conte Diego Melzi". The present Count Diego Melzi

of Milan was astonished to hear of the label from *The Times*. He is now in his eighties and says that there have only been two Count Diego Melzis, himself and his grandfather who died in 1889.

"My grandfather was an officer in the Piedmontese army during the war of Liberation of Italy," he says. "I have never heard a Flemish painting spoken of or any art collection. With the military life, I doubt if he would have had the time."

THE GREAT DEBATE

While rejecting his conclusion the Getty Museum has accepted Mr Tarica's criticisms in a very open-minded spirit and tried to find answers. Here they are:

Accusation: To make paintings comprehensible to an illiterate public, Flemish painters provided the main figures with easily recognisable attributes. In an Annunciation you would expect Madonna Lilies, a Dove descending, a sceptre in the Angel's hand or some other symbol. This is the only Flemish Annunciation in which no attributes of any kind are depicted.

Answer: A forger would be especially careful not to depart from traditional iconography. Such originality points the other way. A desire to simplify is anyway characteristic of Bouts's work.

Accusation: No 15th-century artist, familiar with the furnishings of this period, would have painted a bench with a cushion on it under the type of baldachin and curtains used to surround a bed. It appears that a later artist has combined the bed hangings copied from one painting with a bench from another without realising that he had depicted an impossible piece of furniture.

Answer: Prof James Marrow of Berkeley cites one similar error in a 15th-century manuscript illumination.

Accusation: The baldachin juts out as far as the Angel on the left but beyond the Virgin on the right, a gross error of perspective impossible for a major master of the period.

Answer: Bouts's grasp of architectural perspective at this period was not perfect.

Accusation: The Angel appears to be pinching and pushing the curtain which is draped over his arm, an odd gesture not found in other depictions of the Annunciation. The painter presumably used the draped curtain to get out of painting the Angel's hand - hands are well-known to be difficult.

Answer: The gesture probably has some symbolic meaning which could be revealed by further research.

Accusation: Shadows, cross-hatching and outlines to ties in the floor appear to have been drawn on top of the paint with some kind of black crayon or pencil. To draw on top of paint in this way is unheard of.

Answer: Metal point underdrawing shows through. (No underdrawing is visible in the National Gallery Entombment because the paint is too thick.) Moreover, John Brealey confirms: "The shadow areas are indicated by extremely fine parallel hatching in brush on the surface."

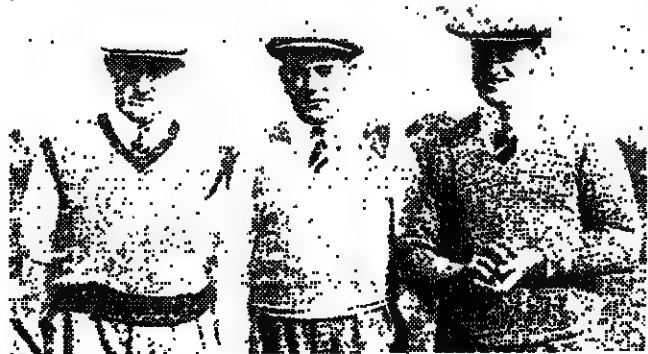
Accusation: The overall tone of the colours in the National Gallery Entombment is peary grey. This fading is characteristic of the few known paintings in tempera on cloth, as it is for frescoes painted in tempera. With the much brighter colours of the Annunciation and Resurrection, the painter is erroneously imitating the bright tones of the 15th-century panel paintings.

Answer: The Entombment has faded so much more than the Annunciation or Resurrection because it has hung under a skylight at the National Gallery for over 100 years and the sunlight has faded the pigments. (Eastlake reported the greens already faded in 1860.)

Tomorrow

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Gentlemen of the green

- Memory games: Thrills and stunts from the Sporting Thirties
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Mrs Thatcher's self-made mandarin



Terence Heiser

Mrs Thatcher's men. They are doctors, operators, entrepreneurs, enthusiasts. They are often self-made: they don't come out of the traditional public school and Oxbridge bag. Several of them are Jewish; they have drive.

Some are in the Cabinet, like Lord (David) Young. Increasingly they are being strategically placed in Whitehall's upper reaches. Some, like Sir Clive Whitmore and Mr David Hancock, have been sent out to carry the message to big or recalcitrant departments, like defence and education.

This week Mrs Thatcher's Whitehall men gained a new recruit. Not for the first time she put a spoke in the clubby procedures by which a permanent secretary is chosen. Now installed as the hammer of the local councils - at the top of the Department of the Environment's great housing and municipal empire, is Mr

Terence Heiser, a shining example of her type of Civil Servant.

Mr Heiser was not plucked from obscurity. A decade ago when he was private secretary to Tony Crosland, departmental sycophants put him among the half a dozen most likely to succeed. But his meteoric rise since 1979 to gain the top job in

a front-line department (a job the Treasury had marked out for one of their own) at the early age of 52, shows a special quality - that something it takes to thrive in the harsher, sometimes abrasive, more partisan climate of Mrs Thatcher's Whitehall.

That something may have to do with Grafton Road Primary School, Dagenham, the kind of school not generally considered a breeding ground for Whitehall's elite. Mr Heiser is very definitely not out of the traditional mould: a war-time evacuee, his father himself a junior grade Civil Servant, he left school at 15, and joined the Civil Service as a humble clerk only later by effort and determination gaining a degree at night school.

But from the age of 30 Mr

Heiser's career, from the old Ministry of Housing and Local Government, into the Department of the Environment, went according to the book, and some of his colleagues think he has made good use of the cover story that he came up the hard way.

Be that as it may, like others among Mrs Thatcher's men he is entirely self-made and has never relied on establishment connections or school ties.

Having specialized in housing, Mr Heiser was head-hunted to work in Tony Crosland's private office. "He studied Croslandism," says a colleague of those days, "then he studied Thatcherism". Heiser was a perfect private secretary, a courtier who while never afraid to argue back carried out ministerial edicts to the letter.

In all his public dealings Mr Heiser has appeared intensely loyal to his ministers and hence to the government's strategy. Affable with journalists and never afraid to guide and brief, there is never a glimmer of indiscretion, not even that exquisitely raised eyebrow which some denizens of Whitehall occasionally use to convey their personal disaffection.

Like Sir Peter Middleton at the Treasury, Mr Heiser is remarkable in having been a blue-eyed boy of the Labour ministers who exited in May 1979 and, without a pause, become indispensable to their Tory successors.

Observers of Whitehall often make the mistake of assuming the Prime Minister wants ideologues. What she wants are doers and doers who, in

Whitehall jargon, can "put a polish on a difficult case." This is the quality that recommended Mr Heiser. "He's forthright. He's not afraid to tell them it won't work, but if they so decide he will make damn sure the troops go into battle."

Mr Heiser has eight years in the top job at Environment, a long time by the usual standards. His predecessors have been rather dour managers concerned before everything to keep the machinery ticking.

The Heiser regime is likely to rebuild the top staff echelons at the department then focus on one or two of the hot policy areas. It is inconceivable that councils won't be one of them.

If Mrs Thatcher went to go for the grand slam on municipal affairs, or some tremendous reorganization (direct rule all round?), she has her man in place.

David Walker

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 - 8 Alter (6)
 - 9 Wild (6)
 - 10 Naples region (8)
 - 11 Neat (4)
 - 12 Diagonal chess piece (6)
 - 13 Young cow (6)
 - 14 Before (3)
 - 15 Manoeuvring room (6)
 - 16 Savour to full (6)

DOWN

- 1 Standpoint (5)
- 2 Heraldic eagle/lion (7)
- 3 Ottoman commander (3)
- 4 Golden syrup (7)
- 5 Noisy confusion (5)
- 6 Brush hard (5)
- 7 Desire (7)
- 8 Ottoman commander (3)
- 9 Biologically clear (7)
- 10 Portuguese Indian resort (3)
- 11 Good looking (7)
- 12 Sulphuric acid (7)
- 13 Scornful exclamation (5)
- 14 Swift (5)
- 15 Wine residue (5)

SOLUTION TO No 570

ACROSS: 8 Accommodation 9 LCC 10 Hypocrite 11 Wiper 13 Rickets 16 Floreat 19 Ridge 22 Ashkenazi 24 Mac 25 Hydrocephalus

DOWN: 1 Callow 2 Icecap 3 Amphorae 4 Cooper 5 Talc 6 Simile 7 Unless 12 Ill 14 Corniche 15 Tug 16 Flashy 17 Oxhide 18 Travel 20 Dimple 21 Excess 23 Eyot

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Pavanne

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Love and the intellectual moll

Creative men have an aura which some women find irresistible, but while life with a self-proclaimed genius is never boring, it can mean years of misery, as Shirley Lowe reveals

Theodore Fitzgibbon met Peter Rose Pulham, the photographer and painter, at the Café Florent in Paris, in 1938. He was tall, dark, dressed in tails with a red lined black cloak and under his arm he carried a large eagle's head made out of papier mâché. Theodore, an aspiring young actress aged 20, was intrigued and in love.

He carried her off to his attic studio with the peeling wallpaper and the rumpled bed-clothes ("I hate made beds, they're so squalid", he shouted at her later, when she turned out the squeezed tubes of paint, the bits of old food, the balls of screwed-up paper and smoothed down the sheets with housewife zeal) and thus began five years of bohemian poverty which changed her life.

They lived, in unfurnished, unheated rooms, often existing on dried bread rubbed with garlic when Peter had pinched the last few francs to buy paint, but the intellectual atmosphere was heady. He introduced her to Ernst, Cocteau, Giacometti, Dali and Picasso - who said she had beautiful arms - and this girl from Ireland, who had been expelled from her convent for backing horses, who had travelled alone across India when she was 16 and had always hated formal education, eagerly

for his power of using words - "His conversation was as bright and vivid as the sight of a kingfisher" - and, the original optimist, she lived on the hope that tomorrow everything would come right. "I was as hungry for his genius to emerge as another woman might be for her man to make a lot of money." A true intellectual moll, she accepted that a woman comes second to creative work, no matter how much love there is.

What fascinates those of us who are attracted to men of conventional ways and gentle manners is that so many women are prepared to sacrifice themselves in this humble role, to be sneered and screamed at and snubbed whenever the perfect sentence eludes a writer or a painter's brushwork isn't up to standard. As Theodore says, life with a creative person is never boring and for a non-intellectual it may seem a treat to be accepted in artistic circles even if she does end up as fodder for the literary lions. Sheila Graham, for instance, was grateful to be allowed to look after Scott Fitzgerald when everyone else had abandoned him, and still breathlessly quotes the most mundane sayings of O'Hara, Benchley, Hemingway and the other writers who hung about The Garden of Allah in the Thirties as though they had been handed down to her on tablets of stone.

The intellectual moll is often youthfully pliable, the second, third or fourth wife, her predecessors having given up on the job. "Jim was good, until his third drink and then sometimes he became a madman, tempestuous and foul-mouthed, but there was never a kinder, nicer friend," when he was sober, said E.B. White of James Thurber, with whom he shared an office at the New Yorker. The first Mrs Thurber couldn't take it; the second took the lot, including having her clothes torn off her in a drunken row. Daily Express reporter Mrs Scott Fitzgerald, Mrs James Thurber et al have testified. And, in Theodore Fitzgibbon's second book of autobiography which is to be published on Thursday, she tells of her subsequent marriage to the unpredictable Irish-American writer, Constantine Fitzgibbon. "17 years of happiness and shattered hopes, of drunkenness, infidelity, scenes of violence and humiliation. They travelled the world, borrowing cottages, clothes and money, always just one step ahead of the creditors, waiting for the book royalty that never seemed to arrive, the best seller that never happened. When Theodore landed a film part in Rome, Constantine ruined it by braving with the director and ripping her (studio wardrobe) dress right down the back. One night, he went home to the remote country cottage where Theodore was waiting for him and announced that he had been in London, planning to go off with another woman, but she hadn't turned up. When she did, he'd go to her but meanwhile: 'What's for dinner? I'm hungry'."

There are stories of parties and fun and laughter with friends, which turned into sullen silences or swinging blows when the front door closed. At the time, Theodore says, she thought that Constantine's bitterness was directed at her, whereas, in reality, it was against all humanity and she just happened to be the only person around to take the blame. He was particularly foul when he could not work, filling the creative void with delectable drink and the flattering balm of other women, and one wonders why Theodore, a lively, intelligent girl who was perfectly capable of earning her living as an actress (or a writer, as it turns out) stuck it as long as she did.

She loved him, she says now. "His conversation was as bright and vivid as the sight of a kingfisher" - and, the original optimist, she lived on the hope that tomorrow everything would come right. "I was as hungry for his genius to emerge as another woman might be for her man to make a lot of money." A true intellectual moll, she accepted that a woman comes second to creative work, no matter how much love there is.

These brilliant men share a naughty small boy quality

saintly patience to get through her honeymoon when Papa propped a portrait of her first husband on the toilet bowl and took potshots at it and then delivered a long, mad speech to the management of the Paris Ritz while standing on the toilet. She nannied him through drink and dementia until he finally shot himself.

Charles Laughon, remarked a friend, was "a great big child who couldn't play" and director Paul Gregory, who knew him well, said that no man had a right to have such a talent "but Charlie also had to have utter chaos to make it go. If he didn't have 30 people absolutely miserable, he wasn't happy. The person he made most miserable was his wife, Elsa Lanchester, who was bullied and belittled and kept finding strange young men in her home. Once, Charles told her that he'd had a fellow on the sofa. "Fine, okay," said Elsa, "but get rid of the sofa." He did. He sold it. "But it still hurt", she said.

Caitlin Thomas was bred to be an intellectual moll by a father who believed that a woman was a blank slate for a man to scribble on; the perfect wife for Dylan Thomas who drank her housekeeping, wrote to her "Oh my lovely dear, how I love you", as he slept his way around America and returned from drunken sessions in London for Caitlin to put him to bed with bread and milk.

Devoted Marmaine



Arthur Koestler enticed Marmaine (a sort of Sloane Ranger of the Forties) to marry him, rather than Edmund Wilson. He then refused to let her have children, complained about everything she did or said when his work was going badly, was consistently unfaithful and also hit her. "Surprisingly few

times", she said, "considering how berserk he goes." Later she wrote, "I would do anything, even leave him if it were necessary, to help him fulfil what I consider to be his destiny. I should count myself and my life of little importance in such a case." Eighteen months later she left him.



Theodore Fitzgibbon: "Not for nothing had I been dubbed the intellectual moll" and, inset, Constantine Fitzgibbon

What these brilliant men share, beside their genius, is a naughty small boy quality which intellectual molls seem to find irresistible. After the Chaplins had visited him, Georges Simenon noted that there were certain kinds of men who took without giving, quite naturally, because they had remained children. "So they are cruel and egotistical like children. That's what is called bohemian. And Charles Chaplin remained a bohemian (in his soul) in spite of his seven children with Oona." Interestingly, Simenon fancied Oona like mad and said she was one of the rare women, maybe the only one, he would have married if he had met her before he met his wife, another patient saint who, Simenon confided in his diary, "understands my need for light sex" - an average of four women a day.

The philosophy put about by men of genius and subscribed to by the women who cherish

them, is that art is more important than people. But how can you be sure that your man is a genius and not just a self-indulgent drunk? Verlaque left home for the army of Arthur Rimbaud, but had a habit of popping back every now and again to throw the baby against the wall, knife his wife or set fire to her hair. "To be a poet", he said, at the end of his life, "I think one must live intensely in every way and remember it." Errol Flynn made an almost identical death-bed speech, yet I doubt if anyone would have considered him a sufficiently bona fide genius to excuse all the booze and sex and underage girls. I go along with a young lady called Paula Trueman, who was phoned up in the middle of the night by Thurber and Scott Fitzgerald, both slurring drunk, insisting on coming over to visit her. "Fitzgerald wasn't so dashing", was her verdict. "He was just a writer who had too much to drink."

Zelda Fitzgerald's tragedy was that she wanted to be creative, too. She tried to be a dancer and failed and when she wrote stories, Scott took them over and rewrote them better. "He took the little bit of self I had", she wrote. Intellectual molls can never compete. Martha Gellhorn, Hemingway wife mark three, was a formidable war correspondent who visited as many front lines as her husband. "Remember, Ernest, that V2 is my story, not yours", she announced crisply, as they watched the first flying bombs hurtle through the air, and then she moved over for patient, saintly Mary. Caitlin Thomas loved and nannied and fought with her husband until he died, but she always felt that through tending Dylan she missed out on her own career.

Caitlin Thomas and Theodore Fitzgibbon are lifelong friends and, this summer, they spent two months together editing Caitlin's latest life-with-Dylan book. "Dylan, the en-

chanting companion and friend, was far from the ideal husband", says Theodore. "Caitlin wanted to be a dancer, you see, but she was always left at home with the children. It still niggles."

Theodore began writing when she was with Constantine who saw it as a harmless hobby to keep her amused. "You mustn't compare what you do with what I do", he said. She has now written 31 books - 29 cookery



Dylan Thomas drank the housekeeping, wrote to Caitlin "how I love you" as he slept his way around America. She still put him to bed with bread and milk



Charlie Chaplin remained a bohemian in his soul - despite having had seven children with Oona



Hemingway propped a portrait of Mary's first husband on the toilet bowl and took potshots at it and made a mad speech at the Paris Ritz standing on the toilet

books, a novel and two autobiographies - as well as regular newspaper columns. When her first cookery book was published, she subscribed to a cuttings agency and was surprised when nothing much came in. "Oh, people wouldn't bother with a little cookery book", her husband said. When she finally left him, she pushed aside the chest in the hall and there, stuffed down the back, were all her press notices.

Now, she is married to George Morrison, a film maker and photographer, and lives "a life full of love and kindness and fun" in a house overlooking Dublin Bay. George has the grit of the creative artist, she says, but he is a kind man. "I don't say I come first, before his work, but I'm almost on a level with it and when I had an accident, last year, he stopped everything to look after me."

Her two autobiographies have taken her from 1938 to 1959. Will she soon be publishing the following 30 years? "Oh, I don't think so", she says. "I don't mind washing my dirty linen in public but I have no intention of washing the clean."

*Love Lies a Loss by Theodore Fitzgibbon. Published on February 21 by Century, £10.95.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Bald facts add up to a cure

In a society which insists that only a full head of hair is beautiful it's not surprising that any potential cure for baldness causes a stir. One of the latest to raise hopes has been Minoxidil, a blood pressure lowering drug manufactured by Upjohn, which has the side effect of making some of those who take it more hairy.

Results from the US suggest that up to a third of men with male-pattern baldness (the inherited tendency to baldness which creeps on with age) may get some benefit from rubbing Minoxidil into the scalp. Men whose hair has thinned rather than those whose hair follicles have died altogether, have reported a "cosmetic" result. This fits in with the findings of some British doctors who, although they don't think Minoxidil will prove a cure-all for baldness, have found that applied to the scalp it can help women with a similar pattern of baldness.

There has also been some success using Minoxidil to cure the minor form of alopecia which results in patchy baldness. This can occur spontaneously or after illness or trauma and is thought to be an auto-immune reaction caused when, for some reason, the body rejects its own hair.

If all continues to go well in America Upjohn plan to apply this autumn for a licence to market Minoxidil as a baldness treatment.

British doctors, though, remain cool about Minoxidil being one day bought over the counter by anyone worried about losing his or her hair. Although they acknowledge that Minoxidil could help some people they are worried about possible side effects.

Healing help

Strokes often give rise to speech difficulties in sufferers and problems with reading and recognizing colours and shapes. A person's short-term memory may be affected and there may be difficulty telling the time.

But patients can be aided by volunteers who spend a few hours a week helping them to overcome the problems and regain their shattered confidence. The Volunteer Stroke Scheme, part of The Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, has over 60 branches in Britain

and is eager to find more helpers.

Volunteers do not require any formal training and assessment of the patient's needs will be done by a speech therapist, health visitor or doctor. Patients just need help in relearning the old skills.

The shortage of volunteers is most acute in cities. Sessions are limited to an hour because the process is exhausting - as well as rewarding - for both parties. Further details from The Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JE, or 55 North Castle Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3LT, 28 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7FJ.

Aspirin danger

The Department of Health has decided not to warn British parents that medicines containing aspirin have been linked with Reye's syndrome, a rare but often fatal illness in children.

This is in spite of the American Government's media campaign to warn parents not to give aspirin to children or adolescents with chicken-pox or flu without first consulting a doctor. US aspirin makers have also agreed that all non-prescription aspirin products should carry a warning.

Up to 300 cases of Reye's syndrome are estimated to occur in the UK each year. Most often a child will first apparently recover from a bout of illness, is suddenly struck down by uncontrollable vomiting. At first the child simply seems lethargic, then he may become aggressive. Delusions, convulsions and coma follow.

With early intensive care most cases could survive but currently 50 per cent die and many more are left brain-damaged.

The latest American study suggests that if children with chicken-pox or flu are given aspirin their chances of developing Reye's increase 25-fold.

British aspirin manufacturers say the findings need to be carefully analysed before any decision on action can be taken and insist that more conclusive data on aspirin and Reye's syndrome is needed.

The National Reye's Syndrome Foundation of the UK wants the DHSS either to accept the US findings or at the very least fund more studies on Reye's syndrome here.

The National Reye's Syndrome Foundation of the UK is at 55 High Street, Banbury, Oxon OX16 8ET.

The sticky answer

Serendipity is often the name of the game in medicine, and the latest example comes from a young American woman

who suffered from psoriasis. It is difficult skin condition to treat. The inflamed patches of scaly skin can be kept in check with ultraviolet radiation and drugs, but as soon as the therapy stops the condition returns.

However, the New England Journal of Medicine tells of the young woman who had a small piece of skin removed for

investigation from her arm, which was then stitched and covered with sticking plaster. After three weeks the skin which had been in contact with the plaster was clear of psoriasis. The remaining patches on her arm were also successfully treated this way.

Her doctor, Dr Ronald Shore, was prompted to try different dressings on patients. He discovered that, although not all of them were helped, the results were as good as using corticosteroids.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

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THE TIMES DIARY

Abridged version

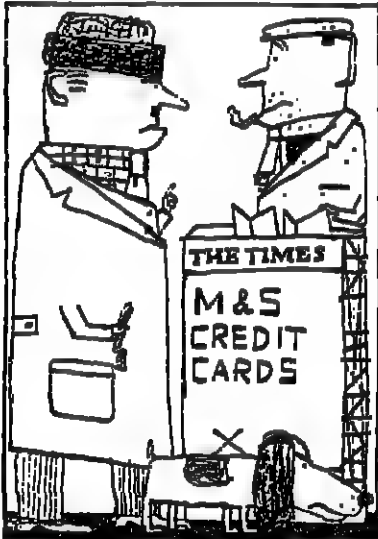
Charles Osborne, little-loved Arts Council literature director, left for an Australian holiday yesterday - to recover, it is suggested, "from his exertions in undermining his department". Certainly the process of demoralisation appears to be complete. On Tuesday Osborne's four staff learnt they and Osborne will be replaced by one part-time official and secretary, though their union will fight this. The part-timers, no longer a separate department, will administer a budget which, at £450,000, has shrunk dramatically in Osborne's 14-year directorship. Nor is he renowned for fighting his corner: he has been quoted as saying that writers should stop "screwing money out of their fellow citizens' purses" and that his department's saving would have a "minute" effect on British literary life. What Osborne might get in redundancy is not known, but, says my mole, he left yesterday "looking very happy and relaxed".

● The title for a British agriculture exhibition opening in Moscow next Tuesday has been changed at the last minute. The Russians had suggested "Britagro" - but the Foreign Office thought it might give the impression of British hostility. The compromise: "Britagronom".

Dilemma

Ken Livingstone addresses a conference in Birmingham tomorrow organized by Target Labour Government, a new group which will campaign for more black and women Labour MPs. I trust Livingstone will announce that he will not seek the nomination for the Brent East seat that he has been cultivating. As readers of this column know, it is widely thought that black GLC press officer Diane Abbott - one of the new group's organizers - wants the nomination.

BARRY FANTONI



"Mine was a size too big - but they changed it, of course"

Casualty list

The diary's list of books and authors which, incredibly, have failed to be selected for the Book Marketing Council's new promotion of the 20 Best Books on War. Hemingway's *Farewell to Arms*, Mailer's *Naked and the Dead*, Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia*, Gunter Grass's *The Tin Drum*, Solzhenitsyn's *August 1914*, T. E. Lawrence's *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Leon Uris's *Exodus*, and Mikhail Sholokhov's *Quiet Flows the Don*. Of those chosen 16 out of 20 are British, all are in print, and many in hardback. Lucky old publishers.

Home comfort

So much for the polytechnic's paperback Marxism. After Mrs Thatcher's rebuff by Oxford, Middlesex Polytechnic is considering awarding her an honorary degree. The Chairman of the governors, Vic Usher, says it would give him "great pleasure" and is sure the honour would appeal to her. He should know: for six years he chaired her constituency party, Middlesex Poly. It should be noted, is not merely the nearest centre of higher education to Mrs T's seat in Finchley: its academic registrar is one D. Thatcher.

Tough at the top

When John Smith, the shadow trade minister, launches Labour's Jobs and Industry Campaign in Budget week, photographs will be issued showing him in his Westminster office. Actually they were taken on Wednesday in Roy Hattersley's office because it is bigger. Some alterations were necessary. A dart board was removed from the wall and the rubber mat beneath it rolled up. Also removed was a wastepaper basket containing two copies of *Beano*.

Instant expert

The thirst for publicity shown by Winchester's Tory MP John Browne is becoming indecent. In a letter to TV-am, leaked to the diary, he says: "I was lucky enough to be asked to escort Mr and Mrs Gorbachev to some interesting events during their recent visit to London. This enabled me to get a most unusual insight into them informally, in addition to the more formal occasions. In the event that Mr Chernenko dies and is succeeded by Mr Gorbachev it may be of interest to you to have an interview with me. I am therefore enclosing a copy of my dates and telephone numbers in case you wish to get in touch in a hurry." Mr Browne is a director of Worms Investments.

Detrimental conduct - by whom?

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

On March 16, 1984, I wrote a column that dealt with an ominous trend within the National Union of Journalists - a trend towards the censorship by the union's far-left busybodies of what journalists may write. The article was headed "Dimbleby: a victory for free speech", because in it I first discussed the disgraceful action by the NUJ in attempting to force Mr David Dimbleby's BBC colleagues, against their clearly expressed wish, to stop him appearing on the Budget day programme: the attempt at intimidation was blocked by the High Court, which ruled it unlawful. Before the court hearing, Mr Dimbleby's colleagues had reluctantly agreed to abide by the order from their union's executive. Of this decision I wrote:

... the brief change of mind must have been influenced by the likelihood that for them to disobey such proceedings could lead to their expulsion from the union, with potentially ruinous consequences for them, should they... ever wish to work for employers with a journalists' closed shop.

I then went on to discuss another example of the drive for left-wing censorship of the union's members: the case of Mr Ronald Spark of *The Sun*, who was expelled from the union (this was later changed to a temporary suspension) for his article, written during the Falklands war, suggesting that two journalists were traitors. Of this matter I wrote:

... The charge was as baseless as it was offensive, but the action taken against Mr Spark was doubly scandalous in that the two journalists whose integrity and loyalty had thus been impugned did not themselves take action against him. They preferred, honourably and sensibly, to ignore Mr Spark's comments: it was two of the union's most egregious busybodies of the far left who took it upon themselves to complain on behalf of men who did not wish to complain.

The last example of NUJ censorship I discussed is the one which has prompted me to return to the subject today. I referred first to an entertaining article by Mr Terry Lovell in *The Sun*, and I quoted the following extract from it:

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, which is a woman's sexiest bit of all? When you strip down to bare essentials to size up your assets, you automatically pick out what you think are your best features. Perhaps you feel it is your beautiful eyes that turn men on. Or that your sensational legs grab the wolf whistles. Whatever you choose, it reveals the hidden you. It's all part of a new body language discovered by a top American psychologist. She calls it Body Love.

The busybodies of the left, I should explain, are not content with



Pinks Youens

sniffing out and attempting to silence views which do not please them; they now invite anyone, outside the union as well as inside, to do a spot of do-it-yourself censorship. And so it was with the *Sun* article, as I then went on to explain, saying that the article

... formed the substance of a complaint to the NUJ by a Miss Bachini. She claimed that she was "upset" by the "glances" of a man reading the article opposite her in a train, and, when she bought the paper herself, she "became even more upset and angry". The most horrible thing about this story so far is that it is not altogether impossible that Miss Bachini was telling the truth: there may indeed be a woman so priggish, stupid, humourless and hysterical that she did experience what she claims to have felt. But Miss Bachini's problems, whether physical or psychological, are not, thank God, my concern. My concern is with the fact that Mr Lovell was halted before an NUJ complaints committee, "convicted" of "conduct detrimental

to the interests of the union", in that he had "encouraged discrimination on grounds of gender", and "reprimanded".

My article appeared, as I say, on March 16, 1984. Four months later, to the day, a complaint was laid against me for "conduct detrimental to the profession of journalism", not by Miss Bachini herself but by someone bearing the interesting name of Michael Ann Mullen.

Mike (I hope I may be forgiven the familiarity - we're a matey bunch in the NUJ) was then my branch's Equality Officer (there's glory for you! well, I am all for a spot of Equality, but I cannot help feeling that Mike carries it a trifle far, particularly since I am assured, by those in a position to know, that he is really a woman).

That Mike took four months to cook up her complaint is an interesting reflection on its authenticity, to say nothing of hers. But it meant that when it was tabled I was working abroad. The union regulations for the hearing of a complaint lay down that there must first be a hearing before a committee

of the branch to which the member complained of belongs. My own branch is now firmly controlled by the far left, and I felt that I could therefore look forward to the kind of justice that used to be dispensed by that nice Mr Vyshinsky, or possibly the King of Hearts ("Sentence first, verdict afterwards").

Nor was I disappointed: having arranged a notorious enemy of the people and capitalist-roader, they proceeded to break their own rules wholesale. For instance, the rules insist that "... no action shall be taken against any member unless that member has been given an opportunity to defend himself". But the same rules require the hearing to be completed within eight weeks of the complaint. Obviously, the dictates of natural justice must mean that when a member complains against *cannot*, because of work commitments, appear within the eight weeks, the right of a proper opportunity for defence takes precedence. Not in this case, though: they went ahead in my absence, and even managed to ensure that I did not know when the hearing was to take place until it was over.

The purpose of the branch hearing is only to determine whether there is a prima-facie case to go before the union's national executive, the only body that can decide whether a member has broken the rules. The branch, therefore, may not itself declare that there has been a breach: my branch, of course, decided to ignore that provision and announced that I was in breach of no fewer than three of the rules.

The rules in question are part of the union's "Code of Conduct", a document of which a journalists' union should be ashamed. It is partly superfluous ("A journalist shall protect confidential sources of information"), partly ridiculous ("A journalist shall not accept bribes"), partly ignored by the left ("A journalist shall at all times defend the principle of the freedom of the Press"), and partly impudent ("A journalist shall not mention a person's race, colour, creed, illegitimacy, marital status or lack of it, gender or sexual orientation if this information is strictly relevant").

Anyway, when I discovered that these shenanigans had taken place together with their outcome, I made my own mistake. I should have gone straight to the courts for a declaration that the decision was a nullity, on the grounds that my opponents had broken both the rules of natural justice and the union's own regulations. Instead, I embarked upon a different course of action, which led to proceedings that put me strongly in mind of the Irish judge who vowed that he would lean neither to partially on the one hand nor to impartiality on the other. But I shall tell the second half of the story, and draw attention to the serious implications that flow from it, tomorrow.

(To be concluded)

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The once and future force: Richard Holmes on the enduring magic of Merlin

Wizard of Id who still lives in us all



At Merlin's feet the wily Vivien lay - but did she succeed in shutting him up behind a rock? The fateful encounter as seen by Dore

departure was merely temporary. Merlin, like a true wizard, was more than met the eye. He was not only King Arthur's counsellor and eminence grise: he was in fact the embodiment of a whole alternative view of personal power and achievement. Rather than worldly, Arthurian success, he represented the eternal principle of inner spiritual development. He was the hope of oppressed lives, the triumph of instinct and the human heart, and this was his real enchantment. He was, in William Blake's words, "Imagination eternally trying to escape from Matter. And as such he could never really die. He was the permanent Opposition."

Even earlier than Malory, there was the counter-evidence of Geoffrey of Monmouth, who claims in his *Vita Merlini* (c. 1150) that Merlin's death was really a retirement for further reflection. He slipped away into his magic glass palace or observatory, with its 70 windows, deep in the wild wood, where he studied and took inspiration from nature and the stars. The material for Geoffrey's exclusive interview included this beautiful and oracular statement from the Welsh wizard: "I was taken out of my true self: I was as a spirit and

knew the history of people long past and could foresee the future. I knew then the secrets of nature, bird flight, star wanderings and the way fish glide."

It is the resurgence and return of this poetical and irrepressible Merlin, which I think we have witnessed in many forms during recent years. In popular literature we find him eccentric, donnish and kindly, attempting to school Arthur out of his more chauvinist attitudes in T. H. White's great trilogy, *The Once and Future King* (White once wrote to his old Cambridge tutor: "I have suddenly discovered that... the central theme of the *Merlin* Danthur is to find an antidote to war.") More romantically we find him in Mary Stewart's *The Last Enchantment*; and more earthily in Robert Nye's lascivious fantasy *Merlin*. We see his Gandalfian grey shadow in Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*; and his silver screen presence in John Boorman's *Excalibur* and also, invoking the benevolent Force, in *Star Wars*.

He has also received the tribute of serious, not to say abusive, psychological and historical study. Marie-Louise von Franz's fascinating book *The Grail Legend*, based on the papers of Emma Jung, asserts Merlin's permanent importance as an archetype of the magic trickster, the healer of our wounded relations with the collective unconscious. "Again and again he holds open the approaches to the divine-animal

substrate of the psyche, and this was obviously also Merlin's task in medieval culture."

Clarifying and building on these strange insights, Nikolai Tolstoy in a most striking new book, *The Quest for Merlin* (Hamish Hamilton, £12.95), has developed a comprehensive picture of Merlin as both a genuine historical figure - a northern druid-bard of the late sixth century - and as a mythical force who represents, like the tribal medicine man or shaman, the eternal need to bring spiritual power, through art and ritual and rhetoric, back into daily life.

Altogether the new position of *Merlin* *Revisited* has been well summed up in that bible of modern Arthurian literature, Brewer and Taylor's *The Return of King Arthur* (1983). "Increasingly Merlin is the dominant figure in recent Arthurian writing, and this is surely significant of cultural change... Merlin may be symbolic of the powers of the human mind, with which the popular imagination is now so patently fascinated... As we recognize the need to take account of our power over our environment and its alarming implications, and with its subconscious urges which we can neither understand nor control, we tell ourselves new stories. In them, we no longer focus on Arthur as super-god, but on Merlin as Id."

Indeed, the Wizard of Id shall never die, as long as we need his wily inspiration, his mysterious insights, his Zen-like humour, and above all his hope for a better kingdom to come. Of all the modern retellings of Merlin's story, there is none that strikes me as so clearly a masterpiece, and as so convincing and apposite evidence of his magic survival, as the huge, swirling novel by John Cowper Powys entitled *Merlin* (1951).

Set in fifth century Wales of the Celtic dark age (a time less remote than one might think), it tells how Prince Porius, through Merlin's guidance, learns to identify with the oppressed forest peoples whom he must ultimately lead into the dawn of a higher and brighter civilization. In the final chapter, Porius does indeed release Merlin from beneath that terrible rock, and as they stand together on the high, stony crag, he hears the distant, haunting sounds of the future.

Prince Porius "fancied he could catch moving up to that mountain-top a vast, indescribable, multitudinous murmur, groping up, flung up, like a mist among mistis, from all the forests and valleys of Ynys Prydein, the responses of innumerable weak and terrified and unhealed and unconsidered and unprotected creatures, for whom this first-born and first-betrayed of the wily earth, this ancient accomplice of Time, was still plotting a second Age of Gold."

And is it only my fancy that we too can hear something very like that now, beyond all the round tables and troubled spirits of Camelot?

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David Watt

Wishful thinking on a star

The Reagan Administration's campaign to "sell" the Strategic Defence (or "Star Wars") Initiative is now in full swing and hardly a day passes without some enthusiastic new pronouncement from the president or the secretary of defence.

Nor was I disappointed: having arranged a notorious enemy of the people and capitalist-roader, they proceeded to break their own rules wholesale. For instance, the rules insist that "... no action shall be taken against any member unless that member has been given an opportunity to defend himself". But the same rules require the hearing to be completed within eight weeks of the complaint. Obviously, the dictates of natural justice must mean that when a member complains against *cannot*, because of work commitments, appear within the eight weeks, the right of a proper opportunity for defence takes precedence. Not in this case, though: they went ahead in my absence, and even managed to ensure that I did not know when the hearing was to take place until it was over.

The purpose of the branch hearing is only to determine whether there is a prima-facie case to go before the union's national executive, the only body that can decide whether a member has broken the rules. The branch, therefore, may not itself declare that there has been a breach: my branch, of course, decided to ignore that provision and announced that I was in breach of no fewer than three of the rules.

The rules in question are part of the union's "Code of Conduct", a document of which a journalists' union should be ashamed. It is partly superfluous ("A journalist shall protect confidential sources of information"), partly ridiculous ("A journalist shall not accept bribes"), partly ignored by the left ("A journalist shall at all times defend the principle of the freedom of the Press"), and partly impudent ("A journalist shall not mention a person's race, colour, creed, illegitimacy, marital status or lack of it, gender or sexual orientation if this information is strictly relevant").

Anyway, when I discovered that these shenanigans had taken place together with their outcome, I made my own mistake. I should have gone straight to the courts for a declaration that the decision was a nullity, on the grounds that my opponents had broken both the rules of natural justice and the union's own regulations. Instead, I embarked upon a different course of action, which led to proceedings that put me strongly in mind of the Irish judge who vowed that he would lean neither to partially on the one hand nor to impartiality on the other. But I shall tell the second half of the story, and draw attention to the serious implications that flow from it, tomorrow.

These reactions derive ultimately from the fact that the strength of the Russian arsenal and the loss of American strategic superiority have thoroughly sunk into the American public consciousness. Their implication is obvious. Unless American public opinion takes a far more sophisticated view than it has ever taken on any subject before, Americans must entertain the strongest doubts about whether their president, whom they instinctively admire and trust, would actually commit national suicide on their behalf - let alone on behalf of European allies - in the hope of winning the unwinnable.

This is a bad enough from the administration's point of view, but it looks even worse in the context of recent East-West relations. When détente was in vogue the question whether deterrence was credible seemed academic.

Part of the great folly of Reagan's early rhetoric was its self-defeating

quality. The more the volume of anti-Soviet denunciation was turned up, to justify "greater defence expenditure, the more people were obliged to face the terrible 'what if' question: the more this question was asked the more likely they were to come up with an answer that unsettled them, undermined the country's moral unity of purpose and made vast expenditure on offensive missiles seem doubtful or irrelevant.

Seen in this light the president's recourse to an anti-missile defence, and many of the things now being said to justify it, become at least understandable. Star Wars must appear the least damaging and politically-speaking, the simplest way to go about restoring the credibility of nuclear deterrence, and calming an increasingly damaging outbreak of national neurosis.

If one accepts the purely political frame of reference, he has a point: a nearly foolproof defence against incoming missiles is found, a number of psychological horrors disappear. It no longer becomes inconceivable to press the button, and robust anti-Communism can be adopted as the verbal and conventional military level without giving everyone the shudders.

These blessings are particularly effective if it is assumed (as it probably is by most Americans in their hearts) that American technology will give them a lead over the Soviet Union once an anti-missile race is begun - in other words, that the American president will be able to fire his missiles to good effect but the Russians will not. Superiority in life best form of credibility around. But the beauty of the Star Wars concept is that it takes care of the possibility of a dead heat. Next best to superiority is the sense of security: combined with moral satisfaction, that arises if neither side can harm the other.

The president's main problem is the time factor. He can only achieve the soothing effect he desires if he can persuade his countrymen that defence in space is virtually in their grasp. An incredibly expensive toy which may, or may not, restore national security in 20 years' time is not a commodity that even a salesman of genius finds it easy to sell. He is trying very hard to produce the psychological effect of possession without possession itself. The requirements of such a dramatic campaign are, directly as variance with those of America's allies, however who can only calm public opinion in their own countries if they can say that the whole idea is hypothetical.

In other words it looks as if the story of American foreign policy is about to be rewritten - a "quickie" of a political problem, adopted without any consultation, oversight as the philosopher's stone, and later discredited by practical limitations after the maximum fuss and aggravation has been caused.

There is no easy answer to the deterrence problem, and we must either learn to accept the theory with all its problems in the age of nuclear parity, or attempt to dissolve them in a wiser détente. The difficulty President Reagan and the American people find in doing either is going to give us all a great deal of trouble.

Philip Howard

Frenchmen who saw the light

As a nation, they are proud, very pleased with themselves, particularly their language, and snobbish. They are addicted to bizarre and greasy foods. They are ambitious and restless busybodies. They are patriotic and chauvinistic. Above all they are invincibly convinced of their national superiority to all other nations and races.

The French, of course. Though it could just as easily be the racistist French view of the English. Let *mancher* across *la Manche*. The Frags and *les Pondings* are old friends and enemies. Francophiles and Anglophobes and vice versa, neighbours and strangers. This is not surprising because we are members of the same family. And we are about to celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of a remarkable connection in this special relationship, which has given us household names like Cousteau and Bosquet, Pimms and Roger, Blanchflower and Courage, as British as beer.

In October 1685 Louis XIV signed the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, depriving the Huguenots of their remaining right to freedom of worship in France. More than 200,000 of his most valuable and energetic citizens fled from persecution, impoverishing France and enriching the rest of the world. If the Huguenots had not been driven out of France, history could well have taken a different course. France might have ruled the world, and visits to Twickenham by English rugby supporters would be even more frustrating than they are today.

The Huguenots are the French Protestant followers of Calvin. There is some dispute about the origin of their nickname. Some derive it from *Edenness*, Swiss German for a confederate; others connect it with the name of a Geneva burgomaster. Besancon Hugues Geneva was a convenient bolthole across the border for the French sectarians. Henri Estienne in *Apologie pour l'Herodote* (1566) asserts somewhat obviously that Huguenot comes from Hugo, because the Protestants of Tours used to meet at night clandestinely near the gate of King Hugo.

There is no dispute about the impact that the refugees had on English life. Perhaps because they had lost everything, and had to start from scratch, they were industrious,

inventive, energetic and extremely successful. The first governor of the Bank of England and seven of his 24 founder directors were Huguenots. Frags hopped into the City as founding fathers of chartered accountancy and insurance. Around Spitalfields Huguenot weavers and watchmakers showed enough inventiveness to amaze the world, and enough energy to build several pyramids if they had wanted to. In fine and decorative and applied arts, mysteries like working gold and carving wood, Huguenots were the best in the world, and artists such as Roubaud and Tieu ornamented the face of England. They were terrific soldiers, both as officers and men. Marlborough would not have beaten the French without the Huguenots in his army and on his staff.

The names of Huguenots who became eminent Englishmen pop up in all areas of national life, from David Garrick to Field Marshal Lord Ligonier; and from Paul Reveré, who crossed the Atlantic and made the famous Midnight Ride, to Peter Doldford, whose name is still blessed by all who wear specs, and contact lenses.

The Huguenots became English worthies: Bailieu, Cazelet, Chenevix, De La Mare, Martineau, Lazard, Mallacieu, Romilly. Even those who did not make it into the *Dictionary of National Biography* established a tradition of hard work, high thinking, and orderly living. There is a famous engraving by Hogarth showing the Huguenots coming out of their church, contrasted with the drunk and disorderly indigenous English on the other side of the gutter.

The tercentenary will be celebrated with suitable pomp and jollification. There is to be a historical conference, an exhibition called "The Quiet Conquest" at the Museum of London, and a book called *Huguenot Heritage* describing the history and contribution of the Huguenots in Britain.

Oh yes, and they have drawn a pedigree tracing the Huguenot ancestry of Prince William and Prince Henry through 15 lines of descent in the royal line and the Spencer family. Frags Rule OK? Next time you are tempted to make some irritable chauvinistic remark about the French, remember, we too are French.



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BACKTRACKING ON THE DOLLAR

Mrs Thatcher's journey to Washington next week comes at a painful moment in the world's obstinately persistent exchange rate crisis. It was only last month that her Chancellor returned from the meeting of the "Group of Five" top finance ministers waving a piece of paper said to demonstrate a new willingness by the United States government to intervene against the dollar.

This "Group of Five" communiqué is coming to look like the Munich agreement of the world's currency markets. The Prime Minister invested considerable personal political capital in securing it, and will look something more than foolish if it is shown to be worthless.

From the start, the British government seemed to be over-selling a modest change of emphasis by the Reagan Administration, with inflated talk of new telephonic links between central banks to enable instant and substantial "concerted intervention". But there does seem to have been American backtracking too. The American government was said to accept that the dollar was "overvalued" and so, on various occasions, the President's speechmen have agreed. Yet this week the President went back to his old tack of attributing

dollar strength to the feebleness of the European economies; an attitude which implies that the dollar is not overvalued at all, and that intervention would be positively misguided.

Yet according to the European members of the "Group of Five" - Germany, France and Britain - the American government did agree to take part in concerted intervention intended to demonstrate the risks of continued speculation on an ever-strengthening dollar. The Americans were not, of course, prepared to save an individual weakening currency. But the agreement implied that they would choose their moment to sell dollars substantially, in order to create a steep break in the upward dollar line on the currency markets' beloved charts.

It may be that the agreement was over-interpreted. The result has certainly not lived up to the prospectus. There has, true enough, been some American intervention, but the American foreign exchange markets have treated it as a polite diplomatic unrivality. The dollar has continued on its own way, checked mainly by the German Bundesbank, angrily accepting the main burden of intervention; or falling

(as it did yesterday) largely through normal market reactions as speculators realised their profits.

One explanation is that Washington has, for the past few weeks, been paralysed by an interregnum at the top of the United States Treasury, with vacancies too at other points of access to the President's ear. The markets are still daily waiting the resolution of this indecision; watching for evidence of substantial intervention by the Federal Reserve Board. It would be greatly to Mrs Thatcher's advantage if American co-operation were to be demonstrated before her trip to Washington.

For while the Germans are also clearly angry, it is the British government that is suffering the greatest embarrassment. The Germans have long pressed for intervention; but the British only changed their tune in favour last month, and the Government got itself into something of a doctrinal tangle in the process. To have changed tack to no avail would be doubly damaging. If the British government cannot now persuade the Americans to play, its diplomatic failure would be compounded by an ineffective policy serve.

ARE EMBRYOS EXPENDABLE?

Mr Enoch Powell's Bill addresses itself to the single most controversial matter inquired into by the Warnock committee on human fertilization and embryology, the creation and use of human embryos outside the womb.

The Bill has the great merit of being founded in a clear and intelligible moral position: that human beings are never to be treated by one another instrumentally, that their life is to be respected and protected for its own sake; and that life begins at conception from which point it develops in continuity to maturity and beyond. From that it follows that manipulation of a human embryo, of which medical science is now capable, is licit only if directed to the continued life and true development of that embryo. To make it the object of experimentation which interferes with or precludes that purpose is to treat it instrumentally, and is a betrayal of humanity. The Bill thus founded crisis through argument about the stage of pre-embryonic development that first attracts the protection due to life with a short answer, *ab ovo*.

It is not however a straightforward matter to translate these precepts into public law, which already contains provisions running in a counter direction. The scruples here displayed about the treatment of an embryo are in painful contrast with the treatment the abortion law permits of the matured fetus. What is more, consistency would extend these scruples to the prohibition of two widely accepted forms of so-called contraception, the intra-uterine coil, and the post-coital pill which operates by preventing the implantation of fertilized ova (embryos) in the womb.

The Bill presents a challenge to law and practice now obtaining. Even so it does not as drafted fully match the morality that inspires it. According to its explanatory memorandum the Bill "prevents a human embryo being created, kept or used for any purpose other than enabling

a child to be born by a particular woman". Only the Secretary of State may authorize such a procedure, which would thus become the only form of medical treatment requiring prior notification and consent by public authority. Yet, if this is to read it correctly, the Bill does not establish a one-to-one correspondence between embryo and child-to-be-born-by-a-particular-woman.

This is presumably because Mr Powell wishes to accommodate the treatment of infertile women by in vitro fertilization in the present state of the art. That involves the creation of "spare" embryos because not all ova fertilized in vitro are suitable for implantation, and because not all reinserted embryos implant in the womb, so that it is advisable to have others ready for the woman's next cycle in case. The embryos that are not inserted and are required by the Bill to be destroyed, may be said to have been created for the purpose of enabling a child to be born to a woman; but they must also be said to have been created and used instrumentally.

Still, the Bill plainly achieves the purpose of excluding experiments on (though not observation of) embryos created outside the womb. In doing so it blocks one avenue of improvement in a form of treatment it makes room for. It also forgoes the benefits of one type of research into male infertility, chromosomal abnormality and miscarriages. The value and productivity of research work done on human embryos directed to those fields of inquiry are contested within the profession. A layman might observe that the fruits of a particular line of research can never be weighed in advance, but that genetically informed living human tissue looks like promising material for the laboratory.

The Bill's supporters will brush aside the hypothetical benefits of such research with the objection that it is illicit because

it subjects human life to the convenience of the laboratory. It is not to be denied that human life informs the embryo. But for the first days of the embryo's existence that life is without consciousness, without sentience, without movement, without articulation, without final individuation, without an independent basis of existence, and without rites of the church for its entrance or exit. It is, on another view, great in potentiality and empty in actuality. It is not what it may become. It is, though it will soon cease to be, in some circumstances and for good reason expendable - a view that appears to be taken by nature herself for whom half of the embryos conceived have no future.

It was with such considerations in mind that the majority of the Warnock committee favoured the licensing of experiments on human embryos up to fourteen days old under strict controls as to the purposes and conditions attaching to the experimentation. It was a utilitarian judgement, of the kind that determines the great majority of social laws, to the effect that the benefits for the treatment of infertility and advancement of medical science more generally could be expected to outweigh the measurable harm implicit in the practice.

The judgement is countered by an intuitive morality - that to treat human life in that way, any human life, is intrinsically wrong. The Government is thought to be among the utilitarians in this matter. If that view is to carry the day on Friday, against the ranks of intuitionists in the House of Commons, the minister will have to show that the several interrelated novelties concerning human fertilization that perplex society, and were considered by the Warnock committee, are properly to be judged by their effects and can best be regulated by the sort of administrative framework which that committee proposed.

HATRED, HISTORY AND HOLOCAUST

"Did six million really die?" was the title of a pamphlet circulated some years ago in this country by an extreme right-wing political group. The presence of disinterested scientific inquiry behind such publications is generally pretty thin. Their object is not to establish historical truth but to rehabilitate Nazism by suggesting that it was not really as black as it has been painted, and in the process to encourage anti-Semitism by suggesting that the received version of the Holocaust is a self-serving Jewish myth, intended to stimulate feelings of guilt among non-Jews which Jews can then exploit.

Those objectives are very nasty ones, and for obvious reasons they seem even nastier when pursued in Germany by Germans than they do here. German liberals are rightly sensitive to any attempt to rehabilitate Nazism or encourage anti-Semitism. Their motives for wishing to make it a crime to deny the reality of the Holocaust are entirely laudable. Yet in doing so they are trying to use

the criminal law for ends to which it is not appropriate, and the result could all too easily be the opposite of the one desired.

Incitement to racial hatred is now a crime in most civilized countries, and so it should be. West German law may indeed be deficient in this respect, and require tightening, since a landlord who refused to serve Turks was recently found not guilty of racial discrimination. A publication which vilifies Jews as a race, for instance by asserting that they are collectively guilty of falsifying history, should certainly fall within the scope of a good incitement law. A good example would be the case of Professor Robert Faurisson, who stated that "the claims of the existence of gas chambers and of genocide of Jews by Hitler constitute one and the same historical lie which has opened the way to a gigantic political and financial fraud, of which the principal beneficiaries are the State of Israel and international Zionism." He was rightly condemned by a French court in

1981 to a suspended prison sentence and a heavy fine.

His crime lay, however, in the accusation against the Jews rather than in the denial of the Holocaust as such. It is not the function of the criminal law to lay down or to protect historical truth. The study of history depends on the freedom of historians to question and to reinterpret historical evidence. A German historian who questioned the reality of the Holocaust might well be suspected of impure motives, but if he confined himself to historical speculation or assertion and was prosecuted merely for that his trial could easily turn into either a macabre farce. Would it be a crime to say that only five million died, or four and a half? Worse, it could turn him into a martyr, giving colour to the whisper that the state resorted to criminal sanctions not to defend truth but for fear that the truth might come out.

The proper answer to false statements in a free society is not to suppress them, but to refute them in public debate.

Human dignity and Warnock

From Sir Anthony Alment
Sir, When it debates the Warnock report Parliament faces such crucial issues of human dignity as deserve to be considered entire rather than piecemeal. The committee was clearly influenced by a large volume of expert evidence. Yet it is a pity that it paid little attention to how children conceived under controlled conditions will regard the dignity of their origins, apart from recommending access to information at the age of majority.

Indeed, experience in the field of adoption suggests that the age of 18 is far too late. In 1972 the Houghton committee (Departmental Committee on the Adoption of Children) held the interests of the child paramount above the needs of the infertile couple and this principle seems to be lost in a new climate of scientific possibilities.

Much of the response to Warnock so far has reflected predictable polarities, but surely there is middle ground. Seventeen years after legalization of abortion about one woman in five in Britain bearing her first-born will have experienced a previous termination. Those who have been deeply involved in this sum of sad experience know that it reflects failures in human relationships and contraceptive science which may yet be overcome. Does our predominantly male body of legislators yet grasp the realities of women's experience about abortion?

The issue of the origin of life can be debated endlessly. As a scientist I know that new life is created entirely at conception. Over many years' experience in abortion I have never pretended otherwise, yet equally I know that it is common for women and couples to experience a sequence in their acceptance of pregnancy.

Faced with the risks of possible failure, that is their need. Will Parliament opt for theological and legalistic nicety, or human awareness of the gradual nature of embryonic security?

What is now possible in the elimination of lives which would certainly be seriously handicapped can lead to dark fears that eugenics will get out of hand. The creation of the human laboratory makes it inevitable that specialists who deal with a wide range of disorders - such as thalassaemia - will be knocking at its door. Will Parliament lock it up and walk away?

Considering the divisions within the Warnock committee itself the task facing a licensing body and an inspectorate will be very difficult indeed. If Parliament decides to set up such a body it must not surround it with such a climate of indecision and suspicion as would make that task impossible. Delegation of investigation could be the worst outcome of the debate.
Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY ALMENT,
Winston House,
Boughton,
Northampton.
February 13.

Broadcasting copyright

From Mr David Green
Sir, On February 7 your Public Notices column carried an announcement by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that the BBC and Independent Television Publications Ltd have been referred to the commission under the terms of the Competition Act 1980. The subject of the reference is the policy of those bodies with regard to advance programme information and schedules.

On the precedent of the Football League's litigation with regard to its fixture lists some years ago, it seems likely that those schedules are the subject of copyright.

I do not of course wish to say anything about the specific reference advertised, except that by its terms it raises an issue of general concern. For if it should transpire that a copyright proprietor may, under domestic monopolies legislation, be called to answer for the manner in which he chooses, or chooses not, to license use of his copyrights, that will have serious implications in copyright law, both domestic and under long-established international treaties.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhyd yr Harding,
Castle Mowford,
Near Havfordwest,
Dyfed.
February 8.

Link with Captain Cook

From Mr Martin Riley
Sir, Mr David Barker (February 6) refers to the future of the memorial to Captain Cook in the church of Great St Andrew, Cambridge, now that the church is closed. As a descendant of Mrs Cook's cousin, who was also her executor, might I express my concern as to the future of her grave, which is beneath the aisle of the church.

Elizabeth Cook was a very remarkable woman. Born in 1742, widow of 36, all her six children had died by the time she was 52. She lived until 1835 - a widow for 56 years. She died at Clapham and expressed the wish to be buried beside her son Hugh, who had died while up at Christ's College in 1793, and James, who had drowned in 1794.

The future of her grave as well as that of the memorial must be of concern to many as the Australian bicentenary approaches.
Yours faithfully,
MARTIN RILEY,
Slaters Farm,
Peppard,
Oxfordshire.
February 6.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reasons for Britain's economic decline

From Professor Lord Kaldor, FBA, and Mr Terry Ward

Sir, Sir John Hoskyns, in his article of February 12, makes two major assertions. The first is that "there is growing evidence that low-tax economies grow fast and high-tax economies grow slowly" and that high taxation is the main cause of Britain's economic decline. The second is that unjustifiably high welfare payments are the main cause of high taxation in Britain.

Though these assertions appear to receive some support from the figures presented in the article, these are in fact highly selective and a less partial examination of official statistics shows that the truth is rather different.

As Table A shows (below), while Britain has had by far the lowest rate of economic growth of any developed country over the last twenty years, she has among the lowest burdens of taxation and the lowest levels of public expenditure in relation to GDP of all industrialised countries - the two notable exceptions being the USA and Japan, the only two developed countries referred to by Sir John Hoskyns in support of his thesis.

As Table B shows, Britain also has, together with Ireland, the lowest level of welfare expenditure among the countries of the European Community.

Sir John Hoskyns fails to make any reference at all to what many people abroad regard as the main

cause of Britain's economic decline, namely the inefficiency of British industrial management.
Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
TERRY WARD,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Applied Economics,
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge,
February 13.

Table A: Government receipts and expenditure in relation to economic growth rates

	Current receipts of Govt as % of GDP	Total outlays of Govt as % of GDP	Average rate of growth 1960-1982
USA	32.8	37.8	3.1
Japan	30.2	34.5	7.3
UK	43.7	47.4	2.1
Germany	45.3	49.4	3.3
France	46.9	50.7	3.9
Italy	41.5	53.7	4.0
Belgium	45.4	56.6	3.7
Netherlands	55.8	60.7	3.4
Austria	48.7	59.3	3.5
Sweden	50.7	67.3	3.0
Denmark	50.1	60.7	3.2
Norway	52.9	68.6	4.0
EEC	45.3	51.1	3.4
OECD-Europe	45.3	50.7	3.5

Table B: Social welfare expenditure as % of GDP in 1981

UK	28.5
Germany	28.5
France	27.2
Italy	24.7
Belgium	30.2
Netherlands	31.7
Denmark	29.3
Ireland	28.4

Source: EEC, Social Protection Statistics

Responsibilities of Civil Servants

From Mr Donald Hill

Sir, In this country the oath of allegiance is to the Monarch and not to the Government. The concept of constitutional monarchy certainly gives scope to the thought that Civil Servants, many of whose briefcases bear the royal cipher, owe a wider responsibility than solely to the Government of the day.

In a democracy like ours the voters' real influence on government is for the brief period of the election. Thereafter, nationally and locally the elected members of the majority political party govern through the central and local government bureaucracy which is the rule of law, or should be.

To prevent this form of government becoming a tyranny there are various checks and balances, such as the Opposition, the judiciary, public opinion and the probity of Civil Servants and local government officers.

On a day-to-day basis it may be the latter which is the most effective. Whichever way the verdict comes it has gone this may be what Mr Poynting has demonstrated.

Indeed, with an inadequate parliamentary Opposition, a judiciary apparently content to prattle away in its legalistic playpen, a slavish devotion to a heavily authoritarian Government from most newspapers, including yours, bureaucratic probity may be democracy's bulwark against the tyranny of a constitutionally elected Government.

I do not overlook the part played by the jury, but it is rarely that juries have this sort of opportunity to reflect the feelings of possibly the majority of their peers. However, Civil Servants and local government officers have the opportunity every day of their working lives to help to ensure that the State is being governed properly. With this in mind, the present Government's sustained onslaught on the "public sector" is disturbing.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD HILL,
Fen Cottage,
16 Albion Street,
Saxmundham,
Suffolk.
February 12.

From the General Secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants

Sir, In a report, "Civil Servants examine conditions of service", on February 13 your Labour Correspondent said that the FDA had drawn up a code of conduct which suggested that Civil Servants should have an ultimate responsibility to the public or their elected representatives rather than accepting com-

pletely the policies of the government of the day.

It is true that our members are currently considering a draft code of ethics, but the premise on which it is based is that a Civil Servant's first loyalty is to Government ministers. The draft code does recognise a possible conflict of loyalties such as confronted our member Clive Poynting and makes proposals how, without unauthorised leaking, such conflicts could be resolved. This is not, however, a matter of FDA policy. That will be determined at our annual conference in May.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WARD, General Secretary,
Association of First Division Civil Servants,
17 Northumberland Avenue, WC2,
February 13.

From Mr J. B. Pick

Sir, At a time when we have a Government which combines liberal rhetoric with authoritarian values, the jury's verdict in the Poynting case is reassuring. It marks a distinction in the public mind between the interests of the Government apparatus and the interests of the people at large. Government protects itself by secrecy; the people need information if democracy is to become real.

For Civil Servants this creates a dilemma which can only be resolved on the basis of conscience. Clive Poynting's conscience caused him to reveal information to Parliament and to resign his post.

I have no doubt that authoritarians among us will now recommence their recent attacks on the jury system, which must be strenuously resisted; justice is often more complex than the letter of the law allows.

Yours sincerely,
J. B. PICK,
Hollins,
Balmacellan,
Castle Douglas,
Kirkcubrightshire,
February 12.

From Miss P. T. Metcalfe

Sir, Mr Poynting accuses ministers of a lack of integrity. He discloses a similar failing by his own actions. He could have taken the honourable course of resignation and his claim to have acted in the public interest would then have been credible.

Yours faithfully,
P. T. METCALFE,
Scribbles,
Walkhurst Lane,
Benenden,
Cranbrook,
Kent.
February 12.

designed to take on the Soviet Union on our own.

Lord Levin admits that even with Trident our strategic deterrent would amount to "no more than a very small fraction" of the deterrent forces of the superpowers. In other words, in a NATO context (the only credible context) British Trident will make very little difference to the balance of power.

The article goes on to suggest that to do away with Trident and spend the money on conventional forces would not make a significant difference to NATO's conventional strength. However, Lord Levin fails to point out that every major NATO commander (including him when he was CINCHAN-Allied Commander-in-Chief Channel) has declared himself woefully short of conventional forces, whilst none has complained of inadequate strategic nuclear forces.

Certainly every NATO commander to whom I have spoken would regard the 12 frigates, 220 tanks and 50 Tornados, which Lord Levin says the Trident money would buy, as a very significant and important strengthening of his forces.

Perhaps the burden of Lord Levin's message is that the durability of NATO cannot be guaranteed and we must plan for that now. In that case I would suggest that a Britain left on its own with Trident (no longer supported logistically by an ally) and quite inadequate conventional forces would be at high risk in an uncertain world.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES JUNGUIS,
Trevorrick Farm, St. Issey,
Wadebridge, Cornwall,
February 7.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 15, 1887

The terrible famine of the 1840s in Ireland led to the emigration of large numbers of its people, in particular to the United States. There, embittered emigrants formed an organization - the Fenians - dedicated to secure the independence of Ireland by force. In January 1887 a force sailed for Ireland and in that year a number of small scale uprisings - all unsuccessful - took place. The Fenian movement did have the effect of focusing the attention of Parliament on the Irish problem.

THE FENIANS

(BY TELEGRAPH)

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS)

DUBLIN, THURSDAY EVENING. There is a Fenian rising in Kerry. A constabulary has been sent, and the army taken. A mounted orderly, carrying despatches, has been shot, the rebels seizing his horse and arms.

The telegraph wires between Killarney and Cahirciveen were cut on Tuesday night, also between Killarney and Mallow.

Killarney was threatened by large bodies of armed men, but they changed their course, and moved on Kenmare. The Government immediately sent troops from Cork, who arrived at Killarney last night, and by 2 o'clock today a force of 1,000 men, including cavalry and artillery, supplied from the Curragh and other places, under Sir A. Housfield, will be concentrated on the Mallow Junction Station.

An American captain was arrested this day at the Victoria Hotel, Killarney, and two other arrests were made in the town this morning. The prisoners are all gone off to Tralee Gaol.

The military are in pursuit of the rebels.

There was a meeting of magistrates yesterday at the Railway Hotel, Killarney.

The children of Lord Castlereagh have been removed to England. Mr. Herbert, M.P. has gone to Killarney. Respectable families in Kerry are flying from their homes to places of safety.

The Railway Hotel is occupied by military.

Two Hundred men are to occupy passes in the Toomies Mountain.

The following telegram has been received from the best authority:-

"THURSDAY AFTERNOON, 2 P.M. Killarney is safe. The insurgents, about 800 in number, moved up the Gap of Danlo towards Kenmare, followed by the troops on horse. The general force is believed to be assembled at Mallow Junction, commanding all that district."

"LATER NEWS."

"Nothing of consequence since 3 p.m., but confirmation of previous statements."

A despatch from Killarney says:- "A well-armed force of Fenians, supposed to be commanded by a Colonel O'Connor, are located in the mountains near Killarney. They stopped the mail car, but allowed it to proceed after some delay. There are not sufficient police to ply duty. A body of Marines guard the Bank at Cahirciveen."

The wounded policeman still lingers, with no hopes of recovery. "All the Fenians are concentrating about the Killarney mountains."

Coping with waste

From Mr M. E. Ginniff

Sir, I wish to correct two inaccuracies in your article, "Coping with waste, 3 - deadly nuclear cargoes with nowhere to go" (February 6).

The Holliday review of deep-sea disposal of radioactive waste did not advise against continued disposal; it advised against a resumption before the publication of three current international studies and the Department of the Environment's best practicable environmental option study. It also commended the quality of the scientific background to deep-sea disposal and accepted that the minute risks postulated were probably exaggerated.

In quoting figures for the arisings of radioactive waste this century the article mentions "20,000 cubic metres of highly-active glass blocks". This should be 2,000 cubic metres.

We are unaware of any evidence that waste packages have moved from the disposal site in the North Atlantic and would be grateful for any authenticated reference.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE GINNIF,
Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive,
Harwell, Didcot, Oxfordshire.

Official soup

From Mrs Peter Opie

Sir, Mrs Plested to see (letter, February 8) that the Army (that bastion of tradition) even as late as 1942 still appreciated the qualities of toast and water.

In *Domestic Receipts*, issued by Byron's publisher, John Murray, c. 1830, it is recommended as "A pleasant, light, and highly diuretic drink, peculiarly grateful to the stomach and excellent for carrying off the effects of an excess in drinking".

Yours faithfully,
IONA OPIE,
Westfield House,
West Liss,
Hampshire.

Brave face on it

From Mrs Elizabeth Burrows

Sir, "Oldies", "wrinklies" and "crumblies" should not despair (Mr Wolfe Keene, February 11).

While William Hogarth in his *Analysis of Beauty* appeared to deliver a further crushing blow to the mature, (after 50 - the havoc, nevertheless he did offer a certain mixed consolation in the words: "...the elegance remains in old age to become a comely piece of ruins."

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH BURROWS,
52 Kew Green,
Richmond,
Surrey

COURT CIRCULAR

STEAM DIESEL ELECTRIC

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Room for compromise on cowboy directors

The Government is not going to accept the wrecking amendment to its Insolvency Bill, passed in the House of Lords last month. This ruled out automatic disqualification of directors whose companies are compulsorily liquidated. Mr. Alex Fletcher, the trade minister handling the Bill, will take his case to the House of Commons on Wednesday. He says that such directors are a danger to shareholders, consumers and last but not least to other businesses. Mr. Fletcher dismisses the claim that directors might be presumed guilty instead of innocent as a red herring put up by the directors' lobby, and will attack careless directors in a ringing tone worthy of the Crock report which, after dilution, spawned the Bill.

The company has been wrecked. Shareholders and creditors have suffered financial damage, some may have been ruined. In such circumstances, there is a clear presumption that the directors may be unfit to act as such and disqualification should follow unless a director can satisfy the court that he acted in accordance with one or more of the grounds specified for relief. Mr. Fletcher says: "Quite so. Yet the Government still does not quite seem to have recognized the problems for company doctors, outside directors representing banks in venture capital companies or management buy-outs, who feel their reputations are at stake if they have to appeal against conviction every time a company goes bust, as such do with monotonous regularity in the early stages."

The Bill has been left in an unhappy mess by the Lords' Amendment, which even the Institute of Directors thought had gone too far. It is ironic that the Lords persisted because they did not believe Government assurances that ministers would try to accommodate their doubts at a later stage. For the Government has been responsive in ways that have improved the Bill. Last May, the Bill was criticized in this column on a number of grounds, including the disqualification clause. The Bill needed rethinking. And so it was. Virtually all the criticisms then voiced here and elsewhere have been answered to some extent. There is no summary disqualification; there are clear grounds for appeal against disqualification if directors have put down in proper minutes their views that the company should not continue trading without drastic changes, and so on. More recently, the Government has even made modest concessions on its privileged position as a creditor.

Mr. Fletcher still stresses that he is "very willing to listen to constructive proposals and to take account of those" when ministers try to reinstate disqualification of incompetent directors. There is every reason to believe him; and there is still for constructive compromise. It could, for instance, be the failure of directors in compulsory liquidations to do their duty beforehand that leads to disqualification rather than doing the right thing merely being a ground of appeal. What is clear is that far too many directors assume a prescriptive right to cook a book at their company's creditors, whether they are the customers of a neighbourhood cowboy builder or the bankers to a large company drifting helplessly to the wall. As amended, the Bill does virtually nothing to correct this.

Stakes rise in battle for Dunlop

A brief, outward calm has descended on the conflict between BTR, the aggressor, and Dunlop, a fallen power into which the energetic and irascible Sir Michael Edwards has breathed instant life since his arrival in November. With the Dunlop share price twice the paper and more than twice the worth (20p) of BTR's bid, Dunlop has every reason to keep its

powder dry. Sir Michael has won the first battle and is waiting for BTR's second offensive. His people's army (Dunlop's battered 40,000 private shareholders) is apparently loyal and the creditor banks have withdrawn to high ground ready to come down in favour of the winning side.

The strength of the Dunlop price is an indication, though not necessarily proof of what that price would have to be. It is undoubtedly a price, in the absence of a takeover, that the new team at Dunlop would have to work extremely hard to sustain and ultimately to justify. It may reflect a feeling, if not a belief, that another company might be ready to bid, either in competition with BTR (unlikely) or if BTR withdrew. The most plausible explanation however, is based on Dunlop's worth to BTR, which is plainly higher than 20p a share.

BTR's remarkable record of growth has raised its price/earnings ratio to a dizzy and demanding 27. Merely to stand still it has to run faster to reach higher ground. It needs the acceleration of a Sebastian Coe. It does not require artificial stimulants but it does need to absorb and recycle other major companies. Dunlop, with the promise of an extra £1,000 million of turnover, substantial tax losses and recovery, both by cut and thrust, written all over it, is an ideal acquisition for BTR.

Sir Michael Edwards and the other musketeers, Robin Biggam and Roger Holmes, are in good fighting form. Their attachment to Dunlop's cause seems so strong that shareholders might be tempted into thinking that they have had Dunlop's cause close to their hearts for years, not a bare three months. Since they dropped their much criticized Dunlop share options they also seem less mercenary. But in the final analysis it would be their duty to recommend a bid at a price they knew they could not justify rejecting. If BTR is prepared to pay that price, they might not unreasonably claim a victory.

It appears, incidentally, that Sir Michael may have come out of his six-month spell running computer group ICL, which was taken over by Standard Telephones and Cables last summer, some £763,500 richer. On Tuesday Sir Kenneth Corfield, chairman of STC, said that in round figures Sir Michael had received £500,000. But he may actually have done rather better than that if the value of his share options (1 million ICL shares at 52p each) are included.

Sir Michael received £183,500 as compensation for loss of office. In addition there was an astonishing £200,000 payment before tax in return for a covenant preventing him from joining a competitor before April 1, 1987. The options were worth £380,000 before tax on top of these payments.

How Dee 'broke' takeover code

The need for a revised takeover code, in preparation for longer than anyone cares to remember, has become more urgent. The latest anomaly in the existing set of rules has been uncovered by Dee Corporation's £338 million bid for Booker McConnell, the cash and carry to agriculture and health care products group.

Dee and its merchant bank advisers, Morgan Grenfell, have managed to "break" the code by in effect declaring the first offer final. The code specifically says that you bidders not allowed to do that within the first three weeks of a bid. In a statement that would have pleased Gilbert if not Sullivan, the Takeover Panel yesterday confirmed that because of Dee's statement that it would sell Booker shares if it judged the price "unrealistic", Dee would not be allowed to increase its bid except in "very exceptional circumstances".

Spot market prices up sharply on renewal of BNOC subsidy

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

The price of North Sea oil on the spot market rose sharply yesterday after the Government's decision to continue subsidizing trading losses at the British National Oil Corporation in a further effort to help stabilize the fragile world oil market.

Cargoes of both Brent and Forties crude rose by 35 cents a barrel in spot trading in response to BNOC's decision to leave the official price of North Sea Oil unchanged at \$28.65 a barrel until at least the end of this month.

The decision, teleaxed to the corporation's leading suppliers on Wednesday evening, was not unexpected, but it has raised market confidence that the recent Opec oil price agreement will now hold for several weeks at least.

As its price for helping to stabilize the market, the Department of Energy is having to return to Parliament to ask for

more grants to cover BNOC's losses in the first two months of this year.

The corporation, which was bailed out with £45 million of taxpayers' funds last autumn, is estimated to have lost a further £40 million this year by being forced to sell most of its oil at a loss on the spot market.

The House of Commons Select Committee on Energy announced yesterday that it is to launch another investigation into the Government's oil pricing policy.

It promises to be the most wide-ranging scrutiny of the Government's policy so far, with the Department of Energy, the Treasury and the Foreign Office all expected to give evidence.

In a report just before Christmas, the committee said it was unhappy that the Government was asking for money to cover BNOC's losses without making clear what its



BNOC's Ian Goskirk: subsidy secured

policy towards oil prices was. Along with most oil industry observers, the committee suspected the Government of pursuing a policy of tacit support for Opec.

Merger hopes lift Fleet shares

By William Kay, City Editor

The shares of Fleet Holdings and Aitken Home Holdings moved ahead strongly on the stock market yesterday in the wake of suggestions that the two companies may merge.

Fleet is the publishing group which owns the Daily and Sunday Express and Daily Star as well as a chain of provincial newspapers and the Morgan Grampian magazine chain.

Aitken is an investment management and merchant banking group run by Messrs Jonathan and Timothy Aitken, Cousins who are related to the founder of the Daily Express, the late Lord Beaverbrook.

Fleet shares rose 11p to 262p, valuing the company at £220 million. Aitken rose 5p to 175p, after being 185p at one stage. It is worth £59 million, after taking account of its present merger with Whittington International Holdings, a property group.

Mr Tim Holland Bosworth, senior director of Kleinwort, Benson, the merchant bank which normally acts for Fleet, said that he was unaware of any bid by Fleet for Aitken. He would be involved if there were one, but he added: "I have learned never to rule anything out."

However, it was being suggested in the City that Aitken might be preparing a reverse takeover bid for Fleet. That would account for the late downturn in Aitken's shares. Lord Matthews could be expected to resist such a move.

The directors of both companies were locked in meetings yesterday.

A stake of nearly 20 per cent in Fleet is held by United Newspapers, the provincial newspaper group which owns the Yorkshire Post and Punch magazine.

Tax setback for unit trust groups

By Richard Thomson

Arbuthnot Securities, the unit trust management company lost its court case against the Inland Revenue yesterday in a surprise decision which carries profound implications for the whole unit trust industry.

As a result of the decision, unit trust investors in a unit trust's Portfolio Trust will have to pay stamp duty and capital gains tax on switches between funds within the trust.

The Portfolio Trust, launched last March, is an "umbrella" authorized trust, containing four equity funds and a deposit fund. Arbuthnot argued that because each fund was not a separate trust, investors switching between them should be exempt from the usual 1 per cent stamp duty and the capital gains tax levied on ordinary unit trust switches.

However, the judge upheld the Inland Revenue's view that although the scheme constituted one trust, the funds invested in distinct geographical areas should be treated as separate unit trusts for tax purposes.

Switches between the funds should be taxed exactly as on other unit trusts, the judge said. The case was fought on the issue of stamp duty to speed the legal process. However, the decision also includes the issue of CGT. It does not include unauthorized offshore "umbrella" funds.

The decision affects the development of the unit trust industry. Mr Peter Scott, director of Gartmore Unit Trust Managers, commented: "If the case had gone Arbuthnot's way, it would have driven a coach and horses through the existing rules."

Spending total up £942m

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Treasury yesterday published its spring supplementary estimates for public expenditure, with additional provision sought for spending of £942 million.

The figures, which are said to be consistent with the public expenditure planning total of £128.1 billion published last month, show that the main boost to expenditure has been from higher unemployment and the miners' strike.

Demand-related expenditure accounts for about £400 million

of the additional provision, and miners' strike costs about £300 million.

An extra £249 million is sought for the British Steel Corporation, £177 million as a result of increased costs because of the miners' strike, and £70 million because of the costs of BSC's involvement in the unsuccessful Fircle iron ore mine in Canada.

The cost of policing the miners' strike, with court costs, have resulted in an additional provision of £122.6 million

IN BRIEF

Pound up 80 points

The dollar ran into a bout of profit taking yesterday, allowing the pound to recover ground. Sterling gained 80 points to close \$1.940 in London. The sterling index gained 0.2 to 71.1. The dollar fell from 263 to 260.4 against the yen, amid reports of commercial and official selling from Japan, and slipped by 2 pennings against the mark in Europe. There was no evidence of any concerted intervention. In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average rose above 1,300 in early trading.

Final money supply figures published yesterday showed sterling M3 rose by 0.7 per cent in banking January, with the narrow M1 measure falling by 0.9 per cent, in line with provisional estimates.

Tricentrol is raising £45.3 million by a rights issue of 1.1 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock 1995/2005, on the basis of £1 of convertible stock for every two shares.

Tempos, page 23

Imperial rise

Imperial Group increased pre-tax profits to £220.6 million from £195.3 million for the year to October 31. Turnover rose from £4,366.5 million to £4,593 million. The final dividend of 5.55p makes 8.55p for the year against 7.8p last time.

Tempos, page 23

The Law Debenture Corporation, trustee for the convertible unsecured loan stock holders in Espley Trust, is giving the company 21 days in which to pay the £7.4 million it is owed. Law Debenture will then decide whether it will petition for the winding up of the group.

Grand Met up

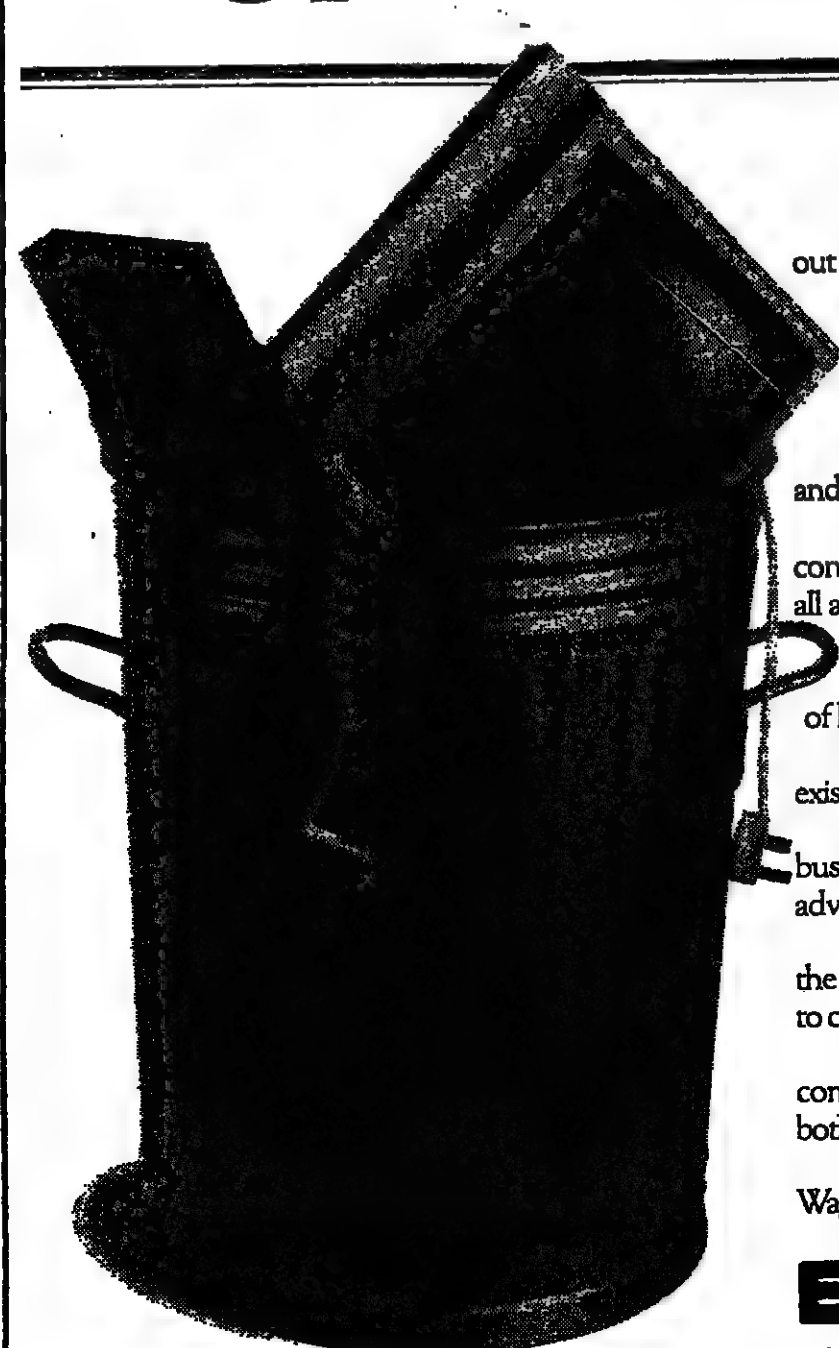
Grand Metropolitan, the leisure group, increased world sales to £1,441.9 million from £1,300.6 million for the first quarter to December 31. Its US subsidiary, Grand Met USA reported net earnings of \$21 million (£19 million) down from \$30.1 million.

Tempos, page 23

BET petition

British Electric Traction is serving a winding up petition against London Leisure and Arts Centres, the ultimate controlling company for Wembley Stadium, in an attempt to recover a £1 million loan.

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US 'losing ground' on trade

From Bailey Morris Washington

The American economy, often described as the engine of world growth, is losing its competitive edge in a wide range of industrial and high technology sectors which have declined dramatically over the past two decades, according to a new Presidential report.

Accompanying the decline was an equally dramatic shift in US trading patterns which turned sharply toward Japan and the Pacific countries and away from Europe.

The report, entitled *Global Competition: The New Reality*, said American companies conducted more trade with Pacific countries than with the Pacific nations would be more than double the size of its European trade by 1995.

Mr John Young, president of Hewlett-Packard, who chaired the Presidential Commission, said the report pointed out the urgency with which the US must move to implement trade and investment policies to reverse the 20-year decline.

The report, to be considered by the Administration, said its far-reaching recommendations were based on long-term trends, as measured by five key indicators and not by short-term cycles such as the present recovery.

IMF withholds payments to Brazil

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Patrick Knight

The International Monetary Fund is to hold payment to Brazil because of its failure to meet domestic economic targets agreed with the IMF.

The move will delay the \$43.6 billion (£40 billion) multi-year rescheduling agreement being finalized with Brazil's commercial bank creditors, which will only go ahead with IMF approval.

Talks between Brazil and its

bank advisory committee were adjourned in New York on Wednesday, and the rescheduling deal is now being put on ice until Brazil can hammer out its differences with the IMF.

The advisory committee is working on interim arrangements. It will propose to Brazil's 600 bank creditors an extension to May 31 on trade and interbank lines to Brazil,

which were due to expire on February 19, and a similar extension of temporary measures for handling debts falling due this year.

The IMF has indicated to Brazil that it cannot ratify its seventh letter of intent under the extended IMF facility and will withhold the \$400 million disbursement due early next month.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	984.71 (+8.8)
FT-A All Share	618.16 (+3.57)
FT Govt Securities	79.85 (+0.36)
FT-SE 100	1,289.5 (+7.8)
Bargains	23.686
Dataseam USM	106.76 (+0.53)
New York	
Dow Jones	3,027.8 (+4.86)
Nikkei Dow	12,081.69 (+35.98)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1,354.39 (+18.07)
Amsterdam	201.4 (+2.6)
Sydney: AO	785.4 (+11.4)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1156.2 (+5.3)
Brussels	
General	156.79 (+108.44)
Paris: CAC	200.8 (+1.6)
Zurich	
S&A General	342.80 (+2.4)

GOLD

London fixings	
am \$303.40pm \$304.15	
close \$304.25-\$304.75	(2278.50-278)
New York	
Comex (futures) \$304.75	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Nittedown Holdings	178p + 33p
Manchester Ship	323p + 40p
Humberts Electronics	16p + 2p
Sunlight Electrical	10p + 1p
Celtic Haven	37.5p + 3.5p
United Biscuits	215p + 17p
Ivory & Sime	127p + 11p
Milford Docks	87p + 7p
Barham Group	415p + 30p
James Halstead	88p + 8p
Star Computer	43p + 3p
James Finlay	150p + 10p
Nel & Spencer	43p + 3p
Brook Street Bureau	125p + 9p
Whittington Int'l	31p + 2p
Wagon Finance	68p + 4p
Birmd Quacast	86.5p + 5p
FALLS:	
Intervention	6p - 1p
Dale Electric	67p - 10p
C. H. Bailey	18.5p - 2p
Wolverhampton Laundry	31p - 3p
ION Steam Packet	125p - 10p
Thomas Borthwick	30p - 2p
Imperial Group	202p - 13p

CURRENCIES

London:	
£ \$1.0940 (+0.0080)	
DM 3.5927 (+0.0042)	
Sfr 3.06 (+0.0058)	
FFr 11.0058 (+0.0508)	
Yen 264.70 (+1.0)	
Index: 71.1 (+0.2)	
New York:	
£ \$1.0935	
DM 3.5972	
Index: 151.0 (-0.5)	
ECU \$0.61942	
SOR \$0.881965	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 14%	
3-month Interbank 13 1/4% - 13 1/2%	
3-month eligible bills 13 1/2% - 13 3/4%	
buying rate	
US:	
Prime Rate 10.50	
Federal Funds 8 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills 8.24 - 8.20	
Long bond 9 1/2% - 10 1/2%	

THE TIMES
Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight shares price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. The difference is your profit or loss. If you are a shareholder you have won outright or a share of the prize money. If you are a shareholder follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Year paid or last
1	Electricals	
2	Oil	
3	Food	
4	Chemicals	
5	Textiles	
6	Metals	
7	Engineering	
8	Transport	
9	Services	
10	Media	
11	Real Estate	
12	Insurance	
13	Finance	
14	Healthcare	
15	Telecom	
16	Energy	
17	Construction	
18	Automotive	
19	Consumer Goods	
20	IT	
21	Pharmaceuticals	
22	Biotechnology	
23	Environmental	
24	Space	
25	Defence	
26	Government	
27	Utilities	
28	Telecom	
29	Energy	
30	Construction	
31	Automotive	
32	Consumer Goods	
33	IT	
34	Pharmaceuticals	
35	Biotechnology	
36	Environmental	
37	Space	
38	Defence	
39	Government	
40	Utilities	

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
British Petroleum	120.00	+1.00	1.50	1.25%	15.00
Shell	110.00	+0.50	1.20	1.09%	14.00
Esso	105.00	+0.20	1.10	1.05%	13.50
British Gas	95.00	+0.10	1.00	1.05%	13.00
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	0.80	0.94%	12.50
British Airways	75.00	+0.20	0.70	0.93%	12.00
British Airways	65.00	+0.10	0.60	0.92%	11.50
British Airways	55.00	+0.05	0.50	0.91%	11.00
British Airways	45.00	+0.02	0.40	0.90%	10.50
British Airways	35.00	+0.01	0.30	0.89%	10.00

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
British Airways	25.00	+0.01	0.20	0.88%	9.50
British Airways	15.00	+0.00	0.10	0.87%	9.00
British Airways	10.00	+0.00	0.05	0.86%	8.50
British Airways	5.00	+0.00	0.02	0.85%	8.00
British Airways	2.50	+0.00	0.01	0.84%	7.50
British Airways	1.25	+0.00	0.00	0.83%	7.00
British Airways	0.62	+0.00	0.00	0.82%	6.50
British Airways	0.31	+0.00	0.00	0.81%	6.00
British Airways	0.16	+0.00	0.00	0.80%	5.50
British Airways	0.08	+0.00	0.00	0.79%	5.00

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
British Airways	0.04	+0.00	0.00	0.78%	4.50
British Airways	0.02	+0.00	0.00	0.77%	4.00
British Airways	0.01	+0.00	0.00	0.76%	3.50
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.75%	3.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.74%	2.50
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.73%	2.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.72%	1.50
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.71%	1.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.70%	0.50
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.69%	0.00

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.68%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.67%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.66%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.65%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.64%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.63%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.62%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.61%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.60%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.59%	0.00

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.58%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.57%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.56%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.55%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.54%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.53%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.52%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.51%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.50%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.49%	0.00

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.48%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.47%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.46%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.45%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.44%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.43%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.42%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.41%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.40%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.39%	0.00

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.38%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.37%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.36%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.35%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.34%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.33%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.32%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.31%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.30%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.29%	0.00

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.28%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.27%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.26%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.25%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.24%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.23%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.22%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.21%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.20%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.19%	0.00

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.18%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.17%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.16%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.15%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.14%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.13%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.12%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.11%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.10%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.09%	0.00

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.08%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.07%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.06%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.05%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.04%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.03%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.02%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.01%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
British Airways	0.00	+0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Recovery continues

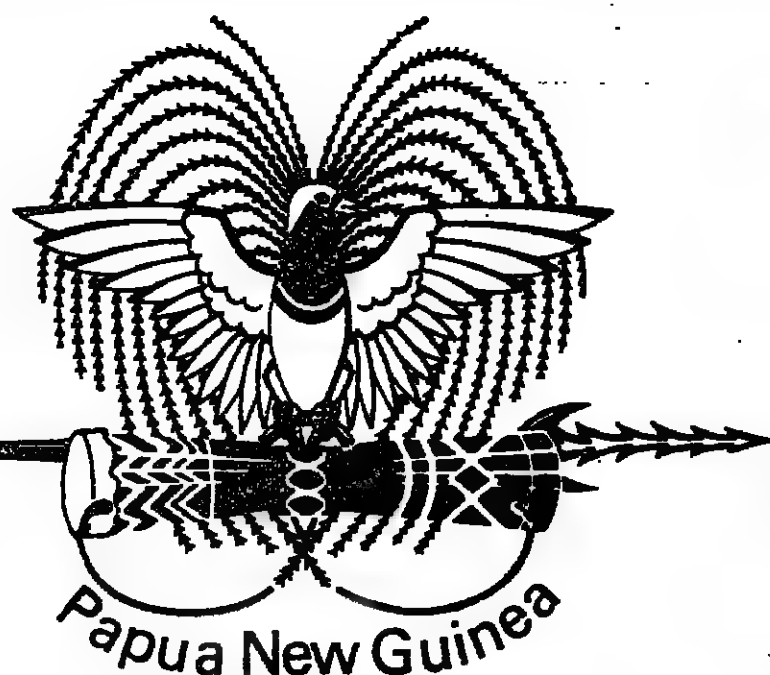
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings, began, Feb 11. Dealings end, Feb 22. Contango Day, Feb 25. Settlement Day, March 4.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1984/85	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	90.00	85.00	British Airways	90.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	85.00	80.00	British Airways	85.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	80.00	75.00	British Airways	80.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	75.00	70.00	British Airways	75.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	70.00	65.00	British Airways	70.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	65.00	60.00	British Airways	65.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	60.00	55.00	British Airways	60.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	55.00	50.00	British Airways	55.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00

1984/85	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	90.00	85.00	British Airways	90.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	85.00	80.00	British Airways	85.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	80.00	75.00	British Airways	80.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	75.00	70.00	British Airways	75.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	70.00	65.00	British Airways	70.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	65.00	60.00	British Airways	65.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	60.00	55.00	British Airways	60.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	55.00	50.00	British Airways	55.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00

1984/85	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
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1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
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1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	95.00	90.00	British Airways	95.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	15.00
1984/85	100.00	95.00	British Airways	100.00	+5.00	1.50	1.50%	

ADVERTISEMENT



A Statement by the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea on the closure of the Ok Tedi Gold and Copper Mine.

On 1st February 1985 the interim operating licence for the Ok Tedi Gold and Copper mine, in Papua New Guinea's Western Province, expired. Following the failure of the mine operator, Ok Tedi Mining Limited, to meet conditions specified in the interim licence, the Government of Papua New Guinea has not renewed that licence. The company has been given until 28th February to effect the closure of the mine in a safe and orderly manner.

The decision follows a breakdown in negotiations between the Government and its fellow shareholders in Ok Tedi Mining Limited; Broken Hill Proprietary Limited of Australia, Amoco Minerals of America and a West German consortium made up of Metallgesellschaft A.G., Degussa A.G. and D.E.G.

The negotiations were held in order to obtain a commitment from the company to continue the project along the lines specified in the contract signed by the company and the Government in 1980. The basis of this contract was the extraction of gold ore and subsequently the development of a copper mine with an estimated life span of twenty-five years.

Every indication is that the company intends to develop only the gold resource and is no longer committed to proceeding with the copper mining project. This is apparent from its failure to comply with specific contract conditions for the construction of:

- (a) A permanent tailings dam
- (b) A hydro-power scheme
- (c) A copper processing facility

Compliance with all of these conditions is necessary for the development of a long term copper mine.

The company argues that the price of copper has fallen and that as a result the development of the copper resource is no longer economic. The Government rejects this argument. Copper prices are cyclical and the current low price cannot be taken as a guide to investing in a mine with a twenty-five year life. Furthermore, as the shareholders have stated publicly, Ok Tedi is a "World Class" resource due to the gold contained in the copper ore.

The Government acknowledges that Ok Tedi is in a remote area and that it is consequently difficult to develop. For this reason it has been tolerant of previous failures to meet deadlines for various developments and has re-negotiated several aspects of the contract. In order to assist with the development of the infrastructure necessary for the development of the copper resource, the Government has agreed to virtually forego any revenues, including direct taxation, during the gold mining period.

At all times the Government has made every effort to see the company's point of view and assist wherever possible. In the course of the recent negotiations it has offered the company a two year breathing-space on the deadline for the construction of the copper facilities and has also offered to meet the first two-year's cost of the hydro-power scheme.

The Government believes that Ok Tedi remains a sound commercial proposition and has no doubt that the development of the resource will continue over a long period of time.

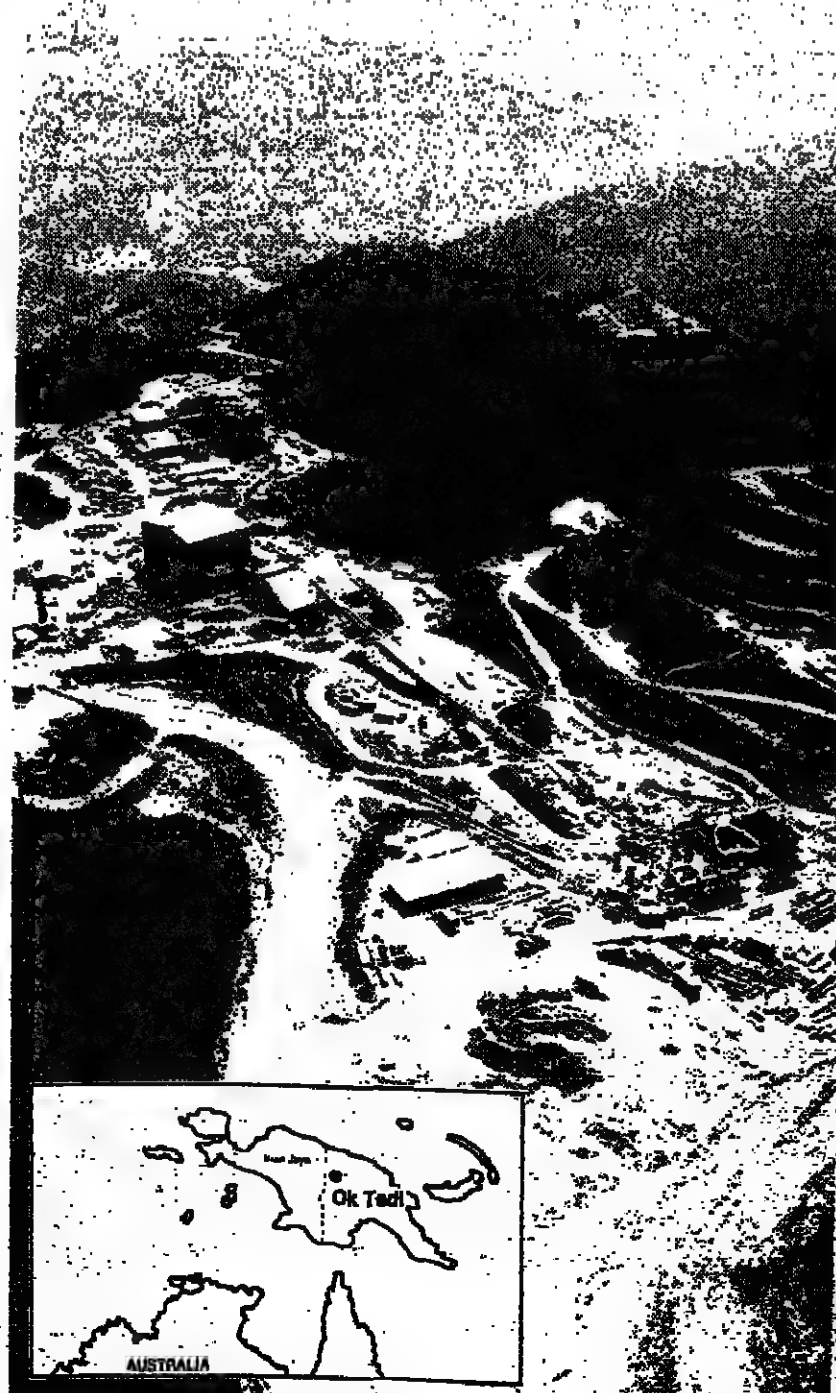
The Government is now taking steps to ensure that Ok Tedi Mining Limited meets its legal and

moral obligations, along the lines specified in the contract. It believes these to be in the long term interests of Papua New Guinea, its People and its environment.

This is purely a contractual dispute between the Government and Ok Tedi Mining Limited. It has no bearing whatsoever on other contracts and arrangements into which the Government has entered.

Papua New Guinea is a democratic country and is a member of the British Commonwealth. The Government's policy of welcoming foreign investment is unchanged and it looks forward to continuing mutually beneficial relationships with overseas investors.

M.T. Somare,
Prime Minister.



STOCK MARKET REPORT

Stockbrokers take opposing views over P and O share price

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

An eleven hour debate about the merits of the P and O shipping group and Sterling Commodities Trust merger gripped the stock market yesterday.

With the £985 million deal about to be completed, P and O rose 3p and then fell to 363p, down 5p on the day, as the conflicting claims of stockbrokers Phillips and Drew and Sprimoun, Kemp-Gee were studied.

Mr Richard Hannah, at Phillips, is not at all impressed with the deal. Stripping out the OCL container contribution from P and O leaves P and O's profits down 12 per cent. The shipping group's shareholders suffer a 20 per cent dilution as a result of the deal and he thinks the projected profits leave the shares overpriced.

Mr SK-G Mr Narish Gudka, an analyst, said that on projected profits of £110 million for the present year P and O shares were not too high, particularly in view of the quality to the group's management led by Sir Jeffrey Sterling. Mr Hannah thinks P and O shares should be sold, Mr

Allegre and Sons, the shoe-maker and retailer, jumped 4p to 39p yesterday on takeover talk. As one of the remaining independent shoe groups, it receives the occasional takeover inquiry but with profits likely to have hit £650,000 (£404,000) in the year ended last month, the shares have much to commend them on trading grounds.

Gudka contends that SGT shareholders should accept the P and O bid.

Shares enjoyed their second firm day on the stock. The FT-30 share index closed 6.8 points higher at 6.8 points. Imperial Group was weak but Cadbury Schweppes and Hanson Trust helped redress the balance. Imperial Chemical Industries, down 3p at 361p, was not helped by one million shares seeking a home.

The FT-SE share index closed well below its best for the day at 1,289.8 points, up 7.8 points.

The pound's modest improvement, the Wednesday Wall Street advance (which was continuing as the London market closed) and a brighter oil picture following the British National Oil Corporation's decision to peg prices, helped equities.

Oils were a few coppers better although the recent high flyers had a difficult day.

Government stocks were strong with gains of up to 1½ p scattered throughout the list.

Food shares were rising yesterday as dealings began in Hillsdown Holdings. The newcomer achieved a price of 180p at one stage before settling at 178p, more than 30p up on the striking price.

City analysts quickly concluded that the price paid for Hillsdown makes other food shares look cheap and there were gains of several pence across the lists. Big names such as Daley, Keweenaw, Macintosh, Tate & Lyle and Unilever were showing gains of between 5p and 10p.

United Biscuits was also bubbling, jumping 17p to 215p. But the source of enthusiasm for UB shares was the meeting at Imperial Group. Imperial talked little about its acquisition policy, but some City men still reckon United Biscuits will be the target, once the Howard Johnson disposal is out of the way.

Imperial shares suffered from these ideas and the lack of news on the Ho-Jo front; the British group appears to be having trouble getting the price it wants for the American subsidiary.

The share price dropped 13p to 202p.

Grand Metropolitan shares rose 7p to 303p alongside its first quarter results. Grand Met published the three-month figures to satisfy American stock exchange requirements.

On the stores pitches, Foster Brothers rose another 8p to 194p following this week's bid from rival retailers Ward White. The latter has offered five of its own shares for six of Foster's at yesterday's 223p Ward White price.

Debenhams, where takeover rumours are strong, slipped 3p to 219p. Habitat-Mothercare

Morgan Stanley, the American investment house, has been

pitching into Cadbury Schweppes shares in the past few days after publication of a note from Mr David Bodenber, the US firm's food analyst. He expects the confectionery and foods group will show profits of £122 million for 1984, against £106.9 million last time, and go on to make £152 million this year. US buying appears to have emptied the jockers of stock, and yesterday the shares rose 9p to 176p.

has been tipped as a bidder, but market sources suggest Habitat has looked and turned away. That leaves Harris Queensway as a likely predator, although there are worries that not even HQ is keen to take on the department store chain.

W H Smith, which has also been subject to takeover talk, gained 6p to 182p, and Style, where British Land's tender offer for part of the shoe shops group failed recently, edged 1p higher to 171p.

Imperial Group showed significant volume. Some 2,355 contracts in BT shares changed hands, 1,531 of them were call options. For Imperial there were 1,444 calls and 468 puts.

Share prices on the electrical pitches showed improvement over recent weak levels, with CASE rising 12p to 244p. Crystalate up 5p at one stage before closing at 191p - up 1p on the day - Diploma 7p higher at 225p, Ferranti 8p better at 146p. International Signal up 13p at 273p. Logica up 10p at 284p, Plessey 6p to the good at 174p and Standard Telephones & Cables 2p up at 192p.

Cambridge Electronic Industries was among those which could make no headway, the price staying at a lowly 323p. One seller in the shares appears to have done much of the damage in the midst of market concern about the computer business.

But Mr Donald Lester, company secretary at CEI, said: "We know of no particular reason for the share price fall". Although CEI are among suppliers to Acorn, the troubled producer of the BBC micro computer, its exposure to Acorn is "minimal".

Mr Lester added: "Less than one per cent of our production goes to Acorn, and currently we are less exposed than usual to that company."

Market interest in financial shares was high yesterday. Exco International showed a 20p gain to 66p, touching 68p earlier in the day, as Telerate, Exco's American subsidiary, reported another round of quarterly results. Telerate increased pre-tax income by 23 per cent in the three months to December 31.

Ivory & Slime, the Edinburgh-based investment managers, jumped 9p to 104p, a new peak for the share price. The takeover talk at Britannia Arrow has been spreading to

In the rest of the options available, business was uneven, although the gilt contract saw more action than usual. A total of 304 contracts in the Exchequer issue changed hands.

similar companies, such as I & S.

Henderson Administration, the other unit trust group on the main lists, has also shared in the market's "second look" at the sector; its price continues to hover around a peak 650p level.

Drought conditions in Kenya have made Kakuzi the only underperforming tea share recently. But sentiment is changing. Profits for the year to the end of this month could rise 23 per cent to £4.2 million and the rain now falling on the plantation could nurture £5 million profits next year without any added tea price rise. A strategic 24 per cent stake held by Eastern Produce strengthens the brew. Kakuzi closed at 110p last night.

AGB Research, another on the long list of takeover hopefuls, gained 10p to 237p, while Reuters was also 10p higher at 345p in sympathy with the news from Telerate/Exco. Brook Street Bureau, where bid approaches have been made, rose another 9p to 125p.

Commercial Union, the insurance company, added 2p to 188p, reversing a sinking trend. Some traded option activity yesterday indicates the shares have bottomed for the time being and should run up ahead of figures due in March which are not expected to impress.

Although majority shareholders Mr and Mrs Eric Hurst admit to talking, there are no signs as yet of a suitable offer being made.

Booker McConnell rose 4p to 261p alongside the renewed bid from Dec Corporation. But few market men believe Dec is serious about its second attempt: offering the current market price, as Dec did on Wednesday night, suggests a lack of determination in the eyes of many dealers.

Sangers, the Tom Whyte vehicle which has taken over a US cosmetics group, was 39p still 7p up on the pre-suspension price.

TEMPUS

Imperial ahead despite further slump at Howard Johnson

Laws of copyright notwithstanding, there must be a great temptation for the Imperial board to rename its Howard Johnson motel and restaurant chain The Great American Disaster.

It has been a miserable venture and yesterday's preliminary announcement confirms the misery. Ho-Jo's profits fell 41 per cent in sterling terms to £11.4 million. The decline was 49 per cent in dollar terms. Sterling profits are now lower than they were in 1980.

The City waits anxiously for some guidance from the company on Ho-Jo's future but little was forthcoming yesterday. Yes, there are interested parties. No, detailed negotiations have not yet started. Maybe it will not be sold after all.

The absence of detailed negotiations suggests that the price Imperial wants does not correspond with the value placed on Ho-Jo by prospective purchasers. Imperial paid \$630 million in 1980 - equivalent to £280 million on exchange rates.

Today, the group would be lucky to raise much more than \$350 million (£320 million). Hardly inspiring figures.

However, Imperial still seems destined to make a sale and the cash realized in the US would give it the opportunity to reinvest in North America.

It is the timing which is all-important for Imperial. A sale of the unwieldy Ho-Jo chain might leave it exposed to takeover. There has been heavy buying of the shares from the US recently and the strong dollar might tempt a buyer from that part of the world. It therefore becomes important for Imperial to make a pre-emptive strike of its own.

The group has cash balances of £174.5 million and gross gearing of only 24.5 per cent. It could fund a £400 million acquisition with no trouble out of cash, even ignoring proceeds from Ho-Jo, and with the share price still rising high, it could also put its paper to work.

There has been talk of a takeover bid for United Biscuits. This would slot neatly into Imperial's food group and also extend its presence in the US where half of UB's business lies.

Certainly, Imperial needs to do something. Ho-Jo apart, the rest of the group performed adequately and total pre-tax profits of £220.6 million for the year, up from £195.3 million, were at the bottom end of City expectations.

The shares closed down 13p at 202p. There is still a lot of uncertainty about Ho-Jo but the shares should still be held.

Tricentrol

Tricentrol's carefully pitched £45.3 million rights issue sounds like an instant hit with the oil analysts. But its popularity owes a lot to recent good behaviour by the oil exploration company.

The £28.7 million rights issue in autumn 1982 hardly led to fireworks, with most of the money apparently dribbling away into Indonesia. Nor has the group had much luck during the eighties with its exploration programme.

But 1984 sounds like Tricentrol's annus mirabilis. Thenet sale of its onshore US oil interests to BASF raised \$52 million, and the luck changed, as they say, on the prospecting side.

The Wythe Farm acquisition sounds like a honey in terms of future cash flow. The group's exploration department has added a cool 40 per cent to reserves. More precisely, net proven and probable oil reserves have risen 43 per cent, while gas reserves have jumped 78 per cent.

Profits for this year come out at £30 million, compared with last year's £24 million, and an unchanged dividend of 10p net hardly sounds profligate. The cautious note is enhanced by Tricentrol's forecast of a maintained payout for 1985.

Convertible traders tend to drool over stocks with coupons

in double figures, so an 11 per cent rate was probably guaranteed success, even though the starting point for the issue was the high equity yield of 7 per cent.

Valuing the equity element is the loan stock at £102.5 per cent, and the extra income at £12.5 per cent gives an opening price, nil paid, of about £12 per cent - a very attractive premium.

Working the figures round the other way, leaves the conversion premium on the equity about 10p, at 210p which is hardly demanding.

The issue also has structural appeal. Tricentrol plans to reappropriate its debt, between project finance which is bankable, and exploration liabilities, which should be charged against equity. The convertible is a smooth way of straddling the two.

Grand Metropolitan

Grand Metropolitan posed its annual mystery for City analysts yesterday with the publication of first-quarter figures from its American subsidiary.

It is virtually impossible to glean any information of lasting significance from the figures since they are subject to so many adjustments on consolidation in Britain.

Even the stand-alone world sales figure defies meaningful interpretation, although it does show an 11 per cent increase up to £1,441.9 million.

The American figures were very poor: net earnings fell from \$30 million to \$31 million, with the decline due entirely to the performance of the cigarette operations. There has been fierce price cutting and margins have been badly effected. The cigarette business from contributing 43 per cent of American profits last year, now barely makes a profit.

Cigarettes apart, the rest of the businesses performed well and the Stock Market marked shares up 7p to 303p. The shares have done so badly in the past year that it is hard to see them doing worse.

Lloyds Bank Home Loan Interest Rates

With effect from Friday, 15th February 1985, Lloyds Bank Home Loan Rate will be increased from 11.75% p.a. to 13.25% p.a., APR 14.2%*

New Repayment Home Loans will be at the Lloyds Bank Home Loan Rate; new Endowment Home Loans will be at 13.75% p.a., APR 14.8%*

*The APRs shown are typical of loans for 25 years. You must be 18 or over to apply. Written details available on request. Security required. Rates of interest may vary.



Athoroughbred amongst banks

Lloyds to pay 13%

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank is to pay interest of 13 per cent on its new high-interest cheque account, launched next Monday. Customers will have to make an initial deposit of £2,500 and maintain at least this amount to earn the high rate of interest.

If the balance falls below, they will only receive 10.5 per cent, less than the bank's 7-day

deposit rate which is presently 11.5 per cent.

Lloyds is last of the big four clearers to introduce a variation on a high-interest cheque account in order to compete effectively for savings when composite rate tax is extended to the banks in April.

The bank will allow three free withdrawals a quarter, charging

50p a time thereafter with no restriction on size of withdrawal.

Cheque guarantee cards of up to £50 can also be used with the account and there is no charge for credits. Customers will be able to cash up to £300 daily from the bank's 1,600 cash machines.

Brewers ask Lawson for 'fairer tax on beer'

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Mr Ewart Boddington, the chairman of the Brewers' Society, went to Downing Street yesterday to plead with Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for fairer taxation of beer in the coming Budget. Derek Harris writes:

Proportionately, beer was the most harshly treated in last year's Budget compared with wine and spirits. Mr Boddington argued. Reduced taxation on table wine had seen its sales jump and spirits sales had also risen while those of beer were down, he added.

Before 1979, duties and tax on a pint of beer amounted to 9.8p but by last year this had risen to 25.3p. Even if adjustment for inflation was made, the duty burden on beer had gone up by 26 per cent while

that on wine was down 29 per cent and that on spirits was down 17 per cent.

Jobs lost in the brewing industry since 1979 amounted to around 14,000, said Mr Boddington. "Beer drinkers have been forced to accept five years of harsh, excessive and unfair increases in taxation. This has hit hardest in the areas of highest unemployment and those with the lowest incomes for whom a pint in the pub or club is their traditional relaxation."

Last year, beer production was marginally down compared with 1983 and there are few expectations in the trade that this year will show any real improvement. The only growth sector is larger, sales of which are improving at the expense of ales.

Co-op merger

Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, one of the oldest and biggest of the retail cooperatives centred on Woolwich, has merged with the Manchester-based Co-operative Wholesale Society which has already taken over the retailing operations of the Croydon-based South Suburban Society. Both Royal Arsenal and South Suburban had been making losses.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Adam & Company ..	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Citibank Savings ..	12%
Consolidated Creds ..	14%
Continental Trust ..	14%
C. Hoare & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams & Glyn's ..	14%
Citibank NA	14%

* Mortgage Base Rate.
* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 11% £10,000 up to £50,000, 12% £50,000 and over, 13%.

Midland House Mortgage Rate

Midland Bank announces that, with effect from Thursday 14th February 1985 its House Mortgage Rate increased by 1% to 13.5% per annum. APR 14.2%.



Midland Bank
Midland Bank plc, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX

Trusthouse Forte PLC

Results Year to 31st October, 1984

	1984 £m	1983 £m
Sales	1148.6	1012.0
Gross trading profit	161.9	134.8
Profit before tax	105.2	82.1
Profit before extraordinary items	73.6	62.0
Earnings per share (net)	9.43p	7.95p
Dividends per share	4.74p	4.125p

Another Record Year

Profit before tax up 28% on last year.

Earnings per share increased by 19%.

Dividend increased by 15%.

Fixed assets in excess of a Billion Pounds (£1,000,000,000).

Balance sheet remains strong - ratio of net borrowings to shareholders' investment 0.33:1.

Trading in the current year has started well ahead of the comparable period and we look forward to further progress in our operations and profits this year and beyond.



For reservations at any of our hotels worldwide ring our booking office on 01-567 3444, contact your travel agent or ring the hotel direct.

Yours faithfully
Trusthouse Forte

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from the Secretary, 12 Sherwood Street, London W1V 7RD

Dalgety

Interim Results - the share price to December 31st 1984

- Sales increased to £2,033 million
- Profits increased to £33.2 million
- Earnings per share increased to 25.1p

"The Board remains confident of a good year for the Group."

Dalgety plc, 19 Hanover Square, London W1R 9DA.

Stormy seas lash privatized British ports

INDUSTRY TODAY

By Jonathan Davis

Life in the private sector is not always as easy or as smooth a progression for former state-owned businesses as the more ardent advocates of privatization would have you believe. Nobody knows this better than Mr Keith Stuart and his colleagues at Associated British Ports, the former British Transport Docks Board whose fortunes have yo-yoed spectacularly this month.

In its first year, the newly privatized company could do little wrong. Traffic and profits at its 19 ports were both smartly up. Labour disputes were few and far between. The City took to the company with enthusiasm. In the first 12 months the share price more than doubled in value. It sharp rise - so it seemed at the time - to all the pre-floatation doubters in Whitehall who were convinced that the market would need to be heavily bribed to buy a business built around the notorious British dockers and his awesome (if not always fully understood) labour practices.

In contrast to these heady beginnings, the last 12 months have been almost unrelentingly grim. As the country's largest single ports operator, AB Ports has been hit by a series of man-made industrial disasters which are likely to have wiped out most if not all of its 1984 profits, originally estimated at £15 million to £20 million.

City analysts now expect the full-year figures to show pretax profits of between breakeven and £3 million when they are published in April. It was no real surprise that by the end of last year, ABP's shares had

rapidly lost much of the gains they made in the first year. The miners' strike has been the main culprit, with the drying up of coal exports and related steel and iron ore movements at ABP's ports on the west coast continuing to cost the company £1 million a month in lost revenue and nearly the same amount in lost profit.

The damage would have been even greater if the management had not prudently negotiated guaranteed revenue contracts with the Coal Board and British

In contrast to the heady beginnings, the last year has been mostly grim

Steel at Port Talbot and Immingham.

On top of the miners' dispute, there were the two related national dock strikes last summer (cost £3 million, according to the stockbrokers Kitcat & Aitken), and then the three-month shutdown of Southampton, ABP's largest port, in a protracted dispute over pay and manning levels.

This was only resolved last month, after the intervention of Acas and not before the two main users of Southampton's container facilities, the Trio and SAECs shipping consortia, had threatened to transfer their business permanently to other British ports. It adds up to what Mr Stuart, the ABP chairman, concedes has been a "very difficult year".

In the circumstances, you

might expect to find him downcast and gloomy - but not a bit of it. Despite a certain innate caution, Mr Stuart cannot disguise his optimism not only that the worst of ABP's difficulties are over, but that the whole unhappy experience of the last year has effectively disguised the steady underlying progress which ABP has continued to make under its new private sector colours.

"I am not complaining, but there is a tendency in the City to exaggerate the importance of industrial disputes, rather than looking through them to the longer term. Some of our disputes have been public - the dock strikes were headline news - and this has not helped. There has been a rapid improvement in the City's understanding of our business, but there is still a

Mr Stuart. There is virtually no net debt in the balance sheet, and it would be a big surprise - though Mr Stuart will not make any forecasts - if the dividend is cut. "It would take a very strange series of circumstances for us to have problems in financing our investment programme," he said.

From ABP's point of view, the settlement of the Southampton dispute is a more critical watershed than the impact of the coal and dock strikes. The dispute began last October when the management, under pressure from the shipping lines to cut charges at the container terminal, tried to introduce new shifts and manning levels at the port to cut costs and improve working practices.

Southampton was becoming increasingly uncompetitive with

The Southampton dispute was management's first real test of strength since privatization

tendency to overreact sometimes.

The underlying financial strength of ABP's operation is demonstrated by the fact that it still intends to step up its investment programme this year, despite the slump in profits.

Capital spending this year will be "somewhat higher" than the last reported annual figure of £10.5 million, according to

rival ports such as Felixstowe. "It was the management's first real test of strength since privatization," says Mr Richard Hannah, shipping analyst with the stockbrokers Phillips & Drew, "and they have come through it with flying colours."

The settlement has been costly in terms of lost profits and redundancy payments, but the terms appear to give management most of what it

wanted. Total manpower at the port has been cut from 2,400 to under 1,500. Manning levels on the container berths have been reduced by a quarter, and workers at the port are having to take pay cuts as a result of the new shift arrangements.

The deal has achieved its immediate purpose. The two shipping consortia, Trio (serving the Far East) and SAECs (the South African conference) have agreed in the last two weeks to return to Southampton. The port has been able to cut its charges to a level which

'It would be wrong to say there has been a great revolution in approach yet'

ABP says is fully competitive with other container ports. "Equally important," says Mr Stuart, "we have been able to cut the overall costs of running the port to a level where it has the potential to thrive and prosper in the future. We are very happy with the outcome."

The new deal means that nearly all ABP's 19 ports now have some element of bonus or performance-related payments in their pay structure. Combined with the fact that most of its 7,000 employees (down from 11,500 five years ago) also have shares in the business as a result of privatization, the ground-work for future gains in productivity appears to have been carefully laid. If financial incentives do work, ABP should be one of the first to benefit.

Mr Stuart does not make

excessive claims for the effect of having workers as shareholders. "It would be wrong to say there has been a great revolution in approach yet," he says. "People who by conviction have views which are broadly left or broadly socialist are not going to suddenly become overnight capitalists because they have got a couple of hundred shares in their company."

"What it has achieved is a greater understanding of what the business is all about, especially in the smaller ports where there has always been closer identification between workers and management."

Mr Stuart identifies two main benefits to have flowed so far from privatization: the ability to make decisions much more quickly than in the past without reference to Treasury or sponsoring department; and the ability to use the company's assets in a more efficient and imaginative way.

The company has recently taken a share in a large shop, office and light industrial development on part of its unused land at Cardiff, for example, and further property deals will follow. ABP is one of the biggest land owners in the country.

Mr Stuart is still unhappy about the competition he faces from subsidized ports, such as Bristol and Port of London, and naturally would like to be rid of the administrative costs and inflexibility of the national Dock Labour Scheme. As a group, however, he believes that the outlook is set fair - once the coal strike is out of the way.

CRICKET

Gower criticizes his batsmen after worrying warm-up

Sydney (Agencies) - The England captain, David Gower, criticized his batsmen for their poor performance after his team scraped home to a four-run victory against a Sydney Metropolitan XI here yesterday.

England scored 149 for eight in the one-day match and then held their amateur opposition to 145 for nine.

"I am not really happy with the earlier batsmen," said Gower. "If we play as badly as that on Sunday against Australia in the opening round of the World Championship, it will be a total disaster."

The higher-order batsmen failed miserably against a side largely made up of youngsters, only one of whom had previous experience of first-class cricket. Fowler was run out for 23, Robinson dismissed for nine, Gower for four, Lamb 13 and Gatting six.

England's innings got off to an extraordinary start on a damp pitch which was taking scents. Fowler was run out when he started to walk back to the pavilion thinking he had been caught off a skier at long-off. The fielder dropped the ball but, seeing Fowler out of his ground, threw down the stumps.

The Lancashire opener said: "I heard their fielders shout 'good catch' and in that situation you put your bat under your arm and walk. I got within 10 yards of David Gower, batting at the other end, when he shouted 'Get back quick' but I only had time to turn around and see the ball hit the stumps."

From then on, England's batting collapsed against an attack that would barely grace a club side in England. The leg spinner, Tom Shiner, coached as a schoolboy by Gatling, took three middle-order wickets, including that of his former tutor, for only 29 runs as England slumped to 106 for eight.

Jonathan Agnew and Richard Ellison came to England's rescue in their only warm-up game before the Benson & Hedges World Championship. Their ninth-wicket stand produced 43 runs. Ellison made 35 not out and Agnew 10 not out.



Fowler: incredible run-out

making sure that the England side at least used their full 50 overs.

A target of three runs an over appeared not to be a problem for the local side as they cruised to 108 for three, wanting 42 off the last 10 overs. A stand of 27 between the Sydney captain Bensley, who once played for New South Wales, and Hall took the Sydney team closer to victory. With four overs left, they needed 16 runs to win. In the 47th over, However, Cowans, bowled Hall to leave the Metropolitan XI at 135 for six.

In the 49th over, with nine runs wanted, Cowans finally swung the game in England's favour having Cox caught behind and removing the middle stump of the tail-ender, Pitty, with successive deliveries.

That left Ellison to bowl the final over, still with nine runs wanted. Bensley, who had swung the bat well to reach 21 not out, could not keep the strike, however, and Ellison had Radcliffe caught by Marks with his third delivery. England had won by four runs.

YESTERDAY'S SCORECARD

ENGLAND		SYDNEY METROPOLITAN XI	
G Fowler run out	23	P Clark b Marks	85
T Robinson dismissed	9	G Matthews C Gatling b Cowdry	14
D Lamb 13	13	G Shaw C Dowling b Cowdry	14
A J Lamb C Clark b Pitty	13	T Baylis c and b Marks	10
M W Gatling at Cox b Shiner	6	Taylor run out	9
J Marks c and b Bensley	9	K Hall b Cowans	9
P F Dowling c and b Hall	6	G Bensley not out	21
M Ellison not out	35	M Cox c Dowling b Cowans	6
J P Agnew not out	10	G Pitty b Cowans	0
Extras (b 1 lb 4 w 3 lb)	10	M Radcliffe c Marks b Ellison	0
Total (for 8 wickets)	149	T Shiner not out	0
Extras (b 1 lb 2 w 3 lb)	14		
Total (for 9 wickets)	145		
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41, 2-47, 3-86, 4-106, 5-106, 6-125, 7-141, 8-141, 9-142.			
BOWLING: Agnew 10-0-25-1; Pitty 10-1-22-1; Bensley 10-0-17-1; Shiner 10-1-28-3; Hall 6-10-18-1; Taylor 6-0-22-0.			
BOWLING: Radcliffe 10-0-35-1; Pitty 10-1-22-1; Bensley 10-0-17-1; Shiner 10-1-28-3; Hall 6-10-18-1; Taylor 6-0-22-0.			

Coney and Chatfield hold out for glorious victory

Dunedin (Reuter) - An unbeaten century by Jeremy Coney and a Test career best by Ewen Chatfield steered New Zealand to one of their most famous victories against Pakistan yesterday.

In a dramatic finish to the third and final Test, New Zealand scraped home with two wickets to spare to clinch the series 2-0 with Coney and Chatfield unbeaten on 111 and 21 respectively. But when New Zealand had still been 20 short of victory they had only one fit man to come.

The position had been made precarious when all-rounder Lance Cairns, batting at No 9 without a helmet, had to retire with a hairline skull fracture after being hit on the head by a bouncer from Wasim Akram.

Cairns remained padded up in the pavilion, ready to re-enter the fray, until victory was secure and then went to hospital where he was detained overnight for observation. He has already been ruled out of the final one-day international against Pakistan on Saturday and will almost certainly miss the World Championship of Cricket series.

Coney's second Test century could not have been better timed. Set 276 to win, New Zealand had

been 23 for four at one stage on Wednesday, but by lunch yesterday they had recovered to 180 for five, with Coney and Jeremy Crowe (84) putting on 157.

Pakistan then reduced New Zealand to 238 for eight with only Chatfield, who had never scored more than 13 in Tests, and the injured Cairns to come. Nearly two hours after Chatfield came to the crease, Coney clipped Tahir Naqish off his toes to long leg and took the two winning runs amid scenes of jubilation.

PAKISTAN First innings 274 (Cairns Over 88, Javed Miandad 75, R Hadlee 2-51). Second innings 223 (Cairns Over 88, E Chatfield 2-52, L Cairns 2-41).

NEW ZEALAND First innings 200 (M D Crowe 87, Wasim Akram 5-50). Second innings 276 (Coney 111, Chatfield 21).

BOWLING: Pakistan 1-41, 2-47, 3-86, 4-106, 5-106, 6-125, 7-141, 8-141, 9-142.

BOWLING: Agnew 10-0-25-1; Pitty 10-1-22-1; Bensley 10-0-17-1; Shiner 10-1-28-3; Hall 6-10-18-1; Taylor 6-0-22-0.

Wickets and no-balls debited to bowlers.

Umpires: T Brooks and A Watson.

Worcester surplus

Worcestershire County Cricket Club report a surplus of £27,484 on last season, when their gate receipts were up £10,000 at £43,000. There was a similar increase in membership subscriptions, which totalled £64,773. Expenditure on the playing staff came to £171,594.

● Middlesex, the NatWest Trophy holders, have announced a £17,000 sponsorship deal for the 1985 season with Queensway furnishes. The package involves £10,000 for the county's four-day match against the Australians at Lords, starting on August 10.

Coney: vital innings

England's last chance

From Ivo Tennant, Kingston

Sobina Park, embedded beneath the Blue Mountains, remains as picturesque a scene as ever. England's Young Cricketers embark on the last leg of their Caribbean tour here today. They need to win to square the series against their West Indies counterparts.

This has been a tour of just three islands - Barbados, St Lucia and Jamaica. Three others - Trinidad, Guyana, and Antigua - refused to host matches, objecting to four of England's cricketers having been to South Africa. The crowds, such as they are, are less concerned. The redoubtable Bob Willis, on his first tour as manager, said that England have been warmly welcomed. Most Jamaicans remain apathetic, even to Jamaican players who went on Rowe's tour to South Africa.

This is the fifth under-19 series that Agatha Christie Ltd has

sponsored, the first being in the Caribbean in 1976. On that trip were Gower, Gatling, Cowdrey and Downton. Now England are led by Les Lennham's highly promising son, Neil. Fourteen of the party are attached to counties; the fifteenth, Christopher Mays, has chosen instead to train as a doctor.

Three of the West Indies side, which won the first international in Bridgetown in just over two of the four days have already played Shell Shield cricket. England, though, have held their own in limited-over and other matches against both island and national sides. The second four-day international, in St Lucia, was almost completely washed out.

ENGLAND (from N J Lennham (captain), J P Addison, S J W Andrew, R J Blakey, P A Booth, P A J de Freitas, D S Hoffman, C E Kelly, G V Power, G Riley (wicket-keeper), M A Roseberry, I Smith, J F Sykes, P G A Tynan, M D Morris).

Hanson Trust Management for prosperity

Hanson Trust PLC, 180 Brompton Road, London SW3 1HF. Telephone: 01-589 7070

Hanson Trust puts together another successful year.

For the twenty-first successive year Hanson Trust has reported record profits.

For the year ending September 30, 1984 pre-tax profit had increased by 86% to £169.1m (£91.1m). Earnings per share, adjusted for scrips, were up 70% from 7.5p to 12.8p and dividends for the year are 3.33p (2.2p).

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If you would like the complete picture of Hanson Trust's operations, why not write to Hanson Trust PLC, Freeport, London SW3 1BR (no stamp required) or telephone 01-589 7070.

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

Benazy's Rachmaninov the Piano Concerto

[illegible][illegible]

School heads urged to put pupils first

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Headteachers are advised to do nothing to support the teachers in their current industrial action, and to put the interests of pupils first, in a letter which has gone out from the National Association of Head Teachers.

This advice, which shows how angry the headteachers are with the National Union of Teachers, was released at the same time as further strike action was announced by the second biggest union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

The NAS/UNT, which has 127,000 members, is to begin an indefinite period of rolling strikes on March 4, at first in 10 local authorities and extending to others. This follows the union's half-day strike next Tuesday.

The union is also withdrawing "goodwill", refusing to attend staff or parents' meetings or to supervise at lunchtime. The intention is to cause maximum disruption at minimum cost to members. Children will miss lessons and, in some cases, schools may be closed.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Fred Smith, general secretary of the NAS/UNT, was careful to distance himself from the biggest teachers' union, the National Union of Teachers. It was regrettable that salary talks had folded because they could

have released more cash, he said.

"Many teachers face the bleak prospect of spending the whole of their careers in the Siberia of the lower pay scales."

Meanwhile, headteachers have been advised again in the letter from Mr David Hart, general secretary of the NAHT, that they should give the names of teachers engaged in certain sanctions if the education authority asks for them.

More than 40 of the 104 education authorities in England and Wales have sent out letters threatening teachers with loss of pay if they refuse to cover for absent colleagues.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, confirmed yesterday that Solihull has given the union until Monday to call off these sanctions.

The NUT also disclosed the 40-odd authorities in which it is proposing to have three-day strikes from next Monday. Teachers are being balloted in Sunderland, Cleveland, Bolton, Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, North Yorkshire, Sheffield, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester, Birmingham, Walsall, Solihull, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Surrey, Kent, East Sussex, Dorset, Devon, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Brent, Bexley, Croydon, Merton, Haringey, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Cwtyd, Dyfed, and possibly Essex.

Synod takes MPs' advice

Continued from page 1

State church, this is d's church in England," he said.

Mr Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead and a co-opted member of the synod, spoke up for the church's independence in general, but also urged the synod not to challenge Parliament on this issue.

Other members said that if the measure was re-presented to parliament and defeated again then the conflict with the synod at risk of humiliation.

The measure was originally passed by the synod by an overwhelming vote. Yesterday the proposal was carried only in the House of Laity.

"In this residual rite there is the last bit that actually remains of the fact that this is not the

Synod report, page 5

Bent and broken by starvation



American photographer David Burnett won second prize in the news feature section of the 1985 world press photographic contest for this chilling image of Ethiopia's famine (Farmers' doubts, page 8).

Ministers face 'honesty' attack

Continued from page 1

hysterical" and that she had thrown "a tantrum" in the Commons on Tuesday.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, said at a Labour rally in London last night: "The higher pitch of Margaret Thatcher's hysteria has grown, the more necessary it has become to count the number of allegations of ministerial deception which are the central issue in the Ponting debate."

One Downing Street source said last night that there was now a pretty serious breach between the two leaders, and that Mrs Thatcher's respect for Mr Kimmo had diminished.

Israelis kill 11 south of Awali

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem

Troops from Israel's Golan Brigade yesterday killed 11 members of an Arab guerrilla squad and captured nine others in one of the most serious incidents in occupied Lebanon in recent months.

An Israeli communiqué identified the Arabs only as "terrorists," but there is speculation that they may have been Palestinians moving south to resume fighting once the first stage of Israel's withdrawal is completed by Sunday.

The terse report said the skirmish happened south of the Awali River in territory Israeli troops will soon abandon. The group carried a large range of weapons, including rocket launchers and AK47 assault rifles, indicating it planned a long stay, the report said.

The incident, which follows reports that large numbers of Palestinian fighters are massing north of the Awali, has increased concern about what will happen after the withdrawal.

There has been a recent increase in the number of attacks on Israelis in southern Lebanon, with four soldiers killed and 18 wounded in more than 50 ambushes in 12 days.

At dawn yesterday Israeli

troops entered the Shia Muslim village of Burj Rahhal in the hills east of Tyre and detained about sixty residents for questioning. UN sources reported a scuffle after French troops tried to stop the Israelis demolishing the homes of three suspects.

The raid, which included two tanks and 18 armoured personnel carriers, was the second near Tyre this week. It is thought to typify the "iron fist" policy the Israelis plan to use against extremists.

UN sources say a villager was killed and another wounded.

Israel accused, page 8

Letter from Sri Lanka

Finding a safe way in rough country

The first checkpoint was seven miles outside Madawachchiya on the road to Mannar. A soldier waved us down. His officer - no badges of rank, but he spoke such good English that he had to be an officer - asked for our ID.

A section of his men was arranged in attitudes of defence in the bushes and buildings around.

At the next checkpoint in the village of Murukan, the officer asked me if I had any video cameras with me. I did not realize why until a few days later when it was reported that three British Journalists had been arrested in Jaffna district for filming with such a camera. News such as that presumably travels fast.

It was true that the ministry had said there were no restrictions on my travelling in the north, but it proved to be difficult to find a car hire company and a driver prepared to risk taking me.

They were nervous about Tamil rebels who might kidnap me or blow up the car.

They were also, more justifiably perhaps, afraid of the reaction of the Sinhalese troops engaged in putting down the Tamil separatist rebellion in the north. Murukan, after all, is where two months ago more than 100 people had been brutally murdered by the security forces.

In the end, however, we were a reasonable combination. The Tamil extremists seemed unlikely to want to inconvenience the Western press, which has been giving them and their cause a good deal of valuable publicity, and the Sinhalese soldiery were prepared to be friendly with a Sinhalese driver even though he may have had some sympathy for the militants, having served a prison sentence himself for taking part in an earlier uprising in the south of the country.

At the Murukan checkpoint the officer gave us a piece of advice: "Be careful," he said. "They are all terrorists here. They are all thieves, they are all robbers. In any case, be sure to leave before six o'clock. There is a curfew then."

The local inhabitants warmly reciprocated these sentiments.

Michael Hamlyn

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief, visits the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Electronics branch, Malvern, 10.15; and later visits the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, Oxon, 10.35.

The Prince of Wales, President of the Royal Agricultural College, visits the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, Glos, 2.30.

The Princess of Wales visits the Sir Michael Sobell House, the Churchill Hospital, Headington, Oxon, 10.35.

Princess Anne visits Hope Hospital, Salford, 11.25; and later, as patron of the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds, attends the Stockport and District Federation's

event in aid of Operation Dhaka appeal, Stockport, 4.25.

New exhibitions

Handel's *Messiah*: a history of the Oratorio: National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh: Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, 9.30 to 10.30 (ends May 10).

A Year and a Half: recent paintings by Carl Robinson: City Museum and Art Gallery, Peterborough: Tues to Sat 12 to 5 (ends March 23).

Exhibitions in progress

Painting by Margaret Law, Kay Stevenson, and Denise Little: MacLaurin Art Gallery, Roselle Park, Ayr: Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Feb 20).

Salisbury Then and Now: a portrait of the city in old and new photographs: Salisbury and the King's Wiltshire Museum, The South

House, 65 The Close, Salisbury: Mon to Sat 10 to 4 (ends April 13).

British painting between the Wars from the Permanent collection: Central Art Gallery, Lichfield: Wolverhampton: Mon to Sat 10 to 6 (ends Feb 23).

Last chance to see

Work by Anthony Green: Polytechnic Gallery, Library Building, Sandford Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 10 to 4.

Music

Concert by the BBC Symphony Orchestra: Ulster Hall, Belfast, 7.45.

Piano recital by Richard Thompson: Moffat Academy, Moffat, 7.30.

Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra: Guildhall, Plymouth, 7.30.

Concert by the Stratclyde University Chorus and Chamber Orchestra: Assembly Hall, Glasgow, 7.30.

Recital by Vanya Milanova (violin) and Robin Colvill (piano): The Academy, Rothesay, 7.30.

Concert by the Saarland Mozart Ensemble: Loughborough Parish Church, 7.30.

General

South East Counties Antique Dealers Fair: Goodwood House today and tomorrow 11 to 9, Sun 11 to 6.

Top films

The top box-office films in London:

- (1) Beverly Hills Cop
- (2) Water
- (3) The Shooting Party
- (4) Amadeus
- (5) The Killing Fields
- (6) Blood Simple
- (7) A Private Function
- (8) Ghostbusters
- (9) The Terminator
- (10) Repo Man

The top films in the provinces:

- (1) Beverly Hills Cop
- (2) A Private Function
- (3) Blood Simple
- (4) Water
- (5) The Party Animal

Supplied by Screen International

Top video rentals

- (1) Police Academy
- (2) Trading Places
- (3) The Evil That Men Do
- (4) Supergirl
- (5) Blame It on Rio
- (6) The Empire Strikes Back
- (7) Sudden Impact
- (8) Scarface
- (9) The Man with Two Brains
- (10) Educating Rita

Supplied by Video Business

The pound

	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.55	1.55	1.55
Austria Sch	13.75	13.75	13.75
Belgium Fr	7.45	7.45	7.45
Denmark Kr	13.35	13.35	13.35
Finland Mk	7.80	7.80	7.80
France Fr	11.50	11.50	11.50
Germany DM	3.22	3.22	3.22
Greece Dr	157.00	157.00	157.00
Hong Kong \$	8.30	8.30	8.30
India Rupee	13.35	13.35	13.35
Italy Lira	2250.00	2250.00	2250.00
Japan Yen	160.00	160.00	160.00
Netherlands Gld	4.20	4.20	4.20
Norway Kr	10.75	10.75	10.75
Portugal Esc	204.00	204.00	204.00
South Africa Rd	2.25	2.25	2.25
Spain Ptas	204.00	204.00	204.00
Sweden Kr	10.35	10.35	10.35
Switzerland Fr	3.15	3.15	3.15
USA \$	1.13	1.13	1.13
Yugoslavia Dnr	285.00	285.00	285.00

Prices for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 326.5

London: The FT Index closed up 5.8 at 984.7

Food prices

The cold spell has again affected the supply and quality of many fresh vegetables, apart from potatoes and onions which come from store.

Watch the quality of Swedes at 18-24p a lb. Turnips at 25-30p a lb and Brussels sprouts 28-30p a lb are scarce. Homegrown potatoes range from 8-12p a lb and mushrooms from 40-75 a lb depending on size.

Celery 35-50p a head. Chinese leaves 40-50p a lb and green peppers 70-90p a lb are at good value.

Many cuts of beef and pork are down about a penny a pound this week. Some good buys from the supermarkets are: Fine Fare New Zealand lamb and British pork chops 21.29 a lb; British Home Stores topside and silverside 21.99 a lb; rump steak 22.59; Tesco braising steak 21.64 and fore ribs of beef 21.38; Sainsbury New Zealand rib chops 99p a lb; loin chops 21.09 (both down 50p); Sainsbury minced beef 89p a lb; New Zealand lamb leg 21.38; and whole fresh chicken 59p a lb; Marks & Spencer roast chicken down 10p a lb; Dewhurst have special offers on New Zealand lamb this week.

Despite the severe weather, fish supplies are reasonable, although the variety is not as good as last week. Cod filets 21.50-21.70 a lb; cod cutlets 21.30; cod filets 75p and cutlets 60p a lb; herrings 70p a lb and kipper 21; large whiting 80p a lb.

Lemons from Cyprus, Jaffa, Italy, Greece and Spain at 9-20p each, according to size, are good value. Marmalade oranges at 30-50p a lb are finishing soon. Braunschweig clementines at 45-60p a lb are among the best citrus buys. Look out for Oraniquins from Jamaica at 16-35p each and Temples 50-60p a lb from Israel.

Anniversaries

Births: Galileo, Pisa, 1564; Jeremy Bentham, London, 1748; Sir Ernest Shackleton, Kilkeel, Co. Clare, 1874.

Deaths: Jan Swammerdam, naturalist, Amsterdam, 1680; Gottfried Lessing, writer, Braunschweig, Germany, 1781; Nicholas Wiseman, 1st Archbishop of Westminster, 1850-65, London, 1865; Herbert Asquith, 1st Earl of Oxford and Asquith, Prime Minister, 1908-16, Sutton Courtenay, Berks, 1928.

Snow reports

Depth (cm) Conditions Off Runs to Weather (5 pm) °C

Andermatt 100 175 good powder fair cloud -2

Andorra-Ardou 100 180 good powder poor fine -2

Andorra-Golau 30 80 good heavy fair cloud -1

Arosa New snow on good base good powder good snow -3

Avoriaz All slopes excellent 40 180 good powder fair snow -1

Chamonix 40 90 good varied good cloud -5

Good on upper runs 5 40 good fair closed cloud -5

Klosters Good snow but poor visibility 45 195 good powder fair snow 0

Leysin 30 80 good powder good fine 0

St Anton New snow on good base 25 270 good powder good snow -2

Val Thorens Much snow falling 30 200 good powder good snow 0

Seafield New snow on good base 50 50 good heavy excellent snow 0

Val Thorens Powder on hard base 110 180 good powder fair cloud 0

Val Thorens New snow on good base 110 210 good heavy good cloud 0

Zermatt Good above 2000m 70 70 fair varied poor fine -1

In the above report, supplied by the Ski Club of Great Britain representatives, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. Other snow reports page 25.

Roads

Wales and West: A483: Temporary signals between Ruabon and Oswestry at Newbridge, Cwtyd (24hrs). A419: Resurfacing on the Siratton bypass, Swindon: contraflow in operation. A5: Temporary traffic lights in use on the Berwyn Road, Wrexham. A5: Resurfacing: temporary signals at Mierdy (24hrs).

The North: A193: Repairs to Byker Bridge, Newcastle: lane restrictions. M62: Major resurfacing work between Gildersome and Beeston near Leeds, on N and southbound carriageway. A66: Road works between North Blits and Greta Bridge, 3 miles E of Bowes: temporary traffic lights.

Scotland: A74: Resurfacing: contraflow on southbound. A929: Roadworks in the High St. Golspie: single line traffic with 24 hour traffic signals.

Information supplied by the AA

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Unborn Children (Protection) Bill, second reading.

Portfolio

Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio total. Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.

If your total falls below the published weekly average you have won currency of the pound. The money you win is the difference between the published average and your total. This money can be used to buy shares or to top up your credit card.

How to claim: Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-5572 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total falls below the published average. The money will be credited to your credit card or bank account. Claims can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

Some Times Portfolio cards include minor errors in the reverse side. These cards are not invalid.

The working of Rules 2 and 3 has been explained from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

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Weather forecast

An anticyclone is expected to be centred over Scotland; a trough of low pressure near SW England will remain slow moving; N and E Scotland will be rather cloudy with wintry showers.

6am to midnight

London, SE England, East Angles: Bright or sunny intervals, scattered snow showers; wind NE moderate or fresh; max temp 10C (50F).

Central S England, Midlands, Wales: Mainly dry, bright or sunny intervals; wind NE light or moderate; max temp 10C (50F).

NE England, Borders: Scattered snow showers, bright or sunny intervals; wind NE light or moderate; max temp 10C (50F).

Channel Islands, SW England: Rather cloudy, some rain and snow at times; wind E strong locally gale force; max temp 10C (50F).

NW, central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Mainly dry with sunny intervals but a few dense freezing fog patches during the morning; wind E light or moderate; max temp 10C (50F).

Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy at times with wintry showers; wind light variable; max temp 10C (50F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Little change.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind NE strong, sun showers; visibility moderate or good; sea rough.

English Channel (E), St George's Channel: Wind E strong to gale, occasionally severe gale, occasional rain or sleet; visibility moderate or poor; sea very rough. Irish Sea: Wind E strong to gale, mainly fair; visibility good; sea very rough.

Lighting-up time

London 5.45 pm to 6.45 am
Belfast 5.55 pm to 6.55 am
Edinburgh 5.47 pm to 7.05 am
Manchester 5.48 pm to 6.55 am
Penzance 6.10 pm to 7.01 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday